

STARS AND STRIPES®

Five finalists for Heisman Trophy announced

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More Iraq wounded are surviving, but many are disabled

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20 years in bluegrass help inspire singer

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Alison Krauss

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2004

Rumsfeld expects Army to fix vehicles armor problem

- Pentagon says armor shortage is consequence of insurgent tactics military did not anticipate
- Marines in Fallujah 'get by' with what they have

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TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers modified this unarmored Humvee with a "Lick Kit" of steel plates to give it a more robust look. That's important, they say, because the harder the vehicle looks, the less likely insurgents are to single it out for attack. The Pentagon said Wednesday it is rushing armored Humvees and armor plates to Iraq as fast as manufacturers can provide them.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

Nation

Washington governor recount: Sitting at a folding table under fluorescent lights, Republican Lloyd Haskins Sr. held up ballots for Democrat Carl Brownstein to see, and they both marked their running totals on white scrap paper. They took part Wednesday in a hand recount of 2.9 million votes to determine the winner of the closest gubernatorial race in state history.

A machine recount found Republican Dino Rossi to be the winner by 42 votes over Democrat Christine Gregoire. The hand recount is the final tally allowed by state law. Each paid team of two vote-counters and one recorder included one person recruited by the local Democratic Party and one recruited by the GOP.

States' budget fluctuations: States' finances are finally picking up, a new report says, with bursts of revenue in nearly every region of the country. But the good news comes with warnings that spending pressures are still so high they could unravel the gains.

Medicaid and other health-related costs top the list of financial worries, state budget leaders reported Thursday. And the borrowing, cuts and scaled-back spending of the last few years have left most states in worse shape than when the economy went south three years ago.

Pickering stepping down: Charles Pickering Sr., whose bruising battle for a seat on a federal appeals court abruptly ended when President Bush elevated him without Congressional approval, is stepping down.

Bush named Pickering to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in January under authority granted him when Congress is in recess, which appointments, which need no Senate confirmation, are valid until the next Congress takes office, in this case in January 2005.

Democrats accused Pickering, who lives in Mississippi, of supporting segregation as a young man, and promoting anti-abortion and anti-voting rights views as a state lawmaker. Pickering has strongly denied allegations of racial insensitivity.



Pickering

Drug-trade drones: The latest aerial drones to be tested on the U.S.-Mexico border have yet to be credited with assisting in any apprehensions or drug busts but they are serving as a deterrent, a Border Patrol spokeswoman says.

The two Hunter unmanned drones are following the same flight patterns as the Hermes 450 drones tested in southern Arizona during the summer. The Hermes aircraft were credited with aiding in more than 780 apprehensions and 11 drug detentions.

Massachusetts lifeguard death: Worcester County (Mass.) District Attorney John Conte is extending a special grand jury investigating the death of lifeguard Molly Bish for another six months.

He convened the special 23-member investigative panel in May to help sift through a mountain of tips from the public. The flood of information has been so massive that investigators have used computer databases to organize and categorize the tips.

Bish was 16 when she vanished June 27, 2000, as she was preparing for her morning lifeguard duty in the small town of Warren. When swimmers arrived at the beach, only her lunch, water bottle, radio and sandals were there. Her first-aid kit was open.

Durst sentencing: A millionaire New



Amman investigation: U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, left, smiles during a meeting of the General Assembly on Wednesday. Jean Ping, center, of Gabon, the president of the 59th session of the General Assembly, and Chen Jian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, joined in a standing ovation. Annan won the ovation as a rare public display of support in response to recent calls for his resignation from many U.S. lawmakers. Diplomats, including U.S. deputy ambassador Patrick Kennedy, cheered despite President Bush's refusal to back Annan pending results of a probe into alleged corruption in the U.N. oil-for-food program in Iraq.

York real estate heir acquitted last year of murdering a Galveston Island neighbor faces sentencing later this month on weapons possession charges in Texas.

Under the agreement Durst and his lawyers reached on three federal weapons possession charges, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania said Tuesday that the defendant would accept a nine-month prison term followed by two years of supervised release in exchange for guilty pleas.

Peterson sentencing: With a photograph of a pregnant Laci Peterson displayed behind him, a prosecutor in Redwood City, Calif., urged jurors Thursday to sentence Scott Peterson to death, saying the date marked the two-year anniversary of his "monstrous plan" to murder his wife.

Scott Peterson's mother testified Wednesday that Laci "became like a daughter to us," adding that the 27-year-old schoolteacher was a perfect match for her son. Her tearful plea to save her son's life moved at least two jurors in his murder trial to tears.

World

Ukraine protests: Protesters lifted their siege of Ukraine's government building Thursday as tensions following weeks of demonstrations ebbed with parliament's adoption of electoral reform before a new presidential runoff vote at the end of the month.

Opposition leaders said the barricades, which prevented senior civil servants from reaching their offices, were no longer necessary and that the real fight now was the campaign for the revote of the runoff election, set for Dec. 26.

Madrid bombings: Police have arrested a

Syrian and an Egyptian in the March 11 train bombings in Madrid, Spain, that killed 191 people, the interior minister said Thursday.

The two were arrested Wednesday in Irún, near Spain's border with France, were identified as Adnan Waki, 28, of Syria, and Ahmed Ibrahim Kassam, 27, of Egypt, said Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso said.

Waki had links with five of the seven people suspected in the bombings, Alonso said.

Musharraf assassination plot: A court in Karachi, Pakistan, said police would be allowed to question an alleged Islamic militant accused of playing a role in a failed plot to kill President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, a prosecution lawyer said.

An outlawed Islamic militant group tried detonate a car bomb on a road while Musharraf's motorcade passed on April 26, 2002, but their remote-controlled device malfunctioned and no one was hurt.

War on terrorism

Firefighter's funeral: Thousands of firefighters lined up outside a Bronx church Thursday in New York for the funeral of a fellow firefighter killed last week in Iraq when his Army National Guard unit was attacked outside Baghdad.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Gov. George Pataki, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta were also expected to attend the funeral Mass for Sgt. Christian Engeldrum.

Engeldrum, 39, a five-year fire veteran and former police officer who served with Ladder Co. 61 in the Co-op City section of the Bronx, was the first city employee to die in Iraq since the U.S.-led war began in March 2003.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Shiite groups name 228 election candidates

BY SAMEER N. YACUB

The Associated Press

BAHGDAD — Iraq's mainstream Shiite groups Thursday announced a diverse list of 228 candidates for the Jan. 30 elections, a victory for Shiite leaders who wanted to present a powerful, united front as they seek a leading role in post-Saddam Iraq after years on the sidelines.

Yet Iraq's major Sunni factions, whose participation in the vote will be crucial to making it legitimate, were not included and have not put forward a list of candidates. Also absent was a radical Shiite cleric who could spoil the Shiite unity if he rejects the coalition's authority.

In violence in the run-up to the vote, seven Iraqis were killed in separate clashes in Baghdad and the volatile western city of Ramadli.

A car bomb also rocked a busy Mosul vegetable market, wounding two civilians, while a U.S. soldier was injured by roadside bomb in the capital. Another American soldier suffered minor injuries in a similar attack the day before in Samarra, the scene of clashes that culminated in the resignation of the town's police chief.

The list of 23 parties, dubbed the United Iraqi Alliance, may put new pressure on the Sunnis to join the race for the vote, especially now that it seems far more likely to proceed. Key Sunni leaders have demanded a boycott, but the interim Iraqi government and President Bush have said the election must go ahead.

Iraq's leading Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, gave his blessing to the list. He has been working to unite Iraq's majority Shiites ahead of the vote to ensure victory, plus include representatives from Iraq's other diverse communities. Shiites comprise 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million population.



Iraqi people gather near the remains of a car bomb Thursday in Mosul, Iraq. A car bomb exploded in a crowded market in this northern city and caused Iraqi casualties, the police and U.S. military said.

The 228 candidates include independent Sunni Muslims, a Shiite Kurdish group, members of the Yazidis minority religious sect, and a Turkomen movement, among others. Also among them are members of the Iraqi National Congress, led by former exile and one-time Pentagon favorite Ahmad Chalabi.

"I think that this list is a patriotic list. We hope that Iraqi people will back this list," Sheikh Fawaz al-Jarba, head of the powerful Sunni Shemar tribes in the northwestern city of Mosul, said at the end of the conference.

Yet there are divides. Separate candidate lists are being compiled by aides to President Ghazi al-Yawer and Prime Minister Ayad Allawi — drawing some Shiites away from the ticket that al-Sistani is overseeing, well-connected Shiite figures have said.

The main Kurdish parties will contest the vote with their own unified list, Kurdish leaders have said.

The biggest wild card among the Shiites is firebrand cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. An aide said al-Sadr's movement had been invited to take part, he suggested the group refused because it wants to see how the vote plays out.

"If the elections results will be beneficial, we will have another chance to join the elections in the coming phases, and if their results were bad it will be recorded that we did not support the occupation's existence," said Hassan al-Zarqani, al-Sadr's representative in Beirut, Lebanon.

Al-Sadr's movement, which wields wide grassroots support among impoverished and young Shiites, has previously sent

mixed messages about its role in the country's political process. There were signs that while al-Sadr and his top aides were not participating, the list had support of others of his followers.

The alliance includes the major Shiite political parties, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Dawa Party. Both have strong links with Iran, a Shiite but non-Arab neighbor, something the Saudis often use to question their rivals' Arab identity and commitment to Iraq's interests.

The election will be Iraq's first popular vote since Saddam Hussein's ouster. Iraqis will choose a 275-member assembly that will write a permanent constitution. If adopted in a referendum next year, the constitution would form the legal basis for another general election to be held by Dec. 15, 2005.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,281 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,001 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Wednesday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,143 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 892 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- No deaths reported.
- The latest identifications reported by the military:
 - Marine Capt. In C. Kim, 23, Warren, Mich.; died Tuesday from a nonhostile vehicle incident in Iraq's Anbar province, assigned to 9th Communications Battalion, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.
 - Army Pfc. Andrew M. Ward, 25, Kirkland, Wash.; died Sunday in Ramadi, Iraq, when his unit was attacked by small arms fire, assigned to the 4th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howze, South Korea.

NATO ready to expand training mission in Iraq

BY PAUL AMES

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO foreign ministers agreed Thursday to launch the next phase of the alliance's training mission in Iraq, a move that should see up to 300 instructors and support troops start moving to Baghdad in the new year.

"The training mission in Iraq is running entirely according to schedule," said NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.

"The number of personnel will go up from its present 60 to around 300," he told a news conference.

He said several NATO allies had come forward with offers of soldiers at the meeting of foreign ministers, including Poland, Hungary and the Netherlands. NATO officials said at least 16 of the 26 allies would contribute, with the United States providing most troops.

The mission will be restricted at first to Baghdad's "Green Zone," the heavily guarded government center, where it will train senior

military staff. De Hoop Scheffer said the mission should start moving out in the spring to the outskirts of the Iraqi capital to set up a military academy for Iraqi armed forces.

However, NATO military experts cautioned that it could take longer to set up the academy. They said about a third of the new troops would be instructors, the rest guards and other help.

NATO had been struggling for weeks to muster instructors for the mission. It is also looking for troops to expand the alliance's peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan.

Alliance officials expressed disappointment that ministers had not committed all the troops, planes and helicopters needed to extend NATO's 8,000-strong Afghan peacekeeping force from its bases in Kabul and the north into the west of the country.

However, they said progress had been made and hoped remaining gaps could be plugged soon.

"I have full confidence that early in the new year, we will be ready to announce the next phase in Afghanistan," De Hoop Scheffer said.



NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer opens a meeting of foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Council at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Thursday.

Iran rejects accusations

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran on Thursday rejected accusations it was trying to influence January elections in Iraq, saying that Iraqis have made it clear they won't take orders from abroad, state media reported.

Iraqi officials know Iran considers the right of Iraqis to determine their own fate a step toward stability and tranquility in Iraq, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told state-run radio.

"The Iraqi people have a shining record in fighting foreign exploitation and occupation and have proven that they won't accept foreign domination," Asefi was quoted by the official Islamic Republic News Agency as saying. Iranian Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawer and Jordan's King Abdullah II, both Sunni Muslims, accused Shiite Muslim-dominated Iran in Washington Post interviews of trying to influence Jan. 30 elections in Iraq.

From The Associated Press

Unit keeps Iraq's air space free and clear

At Balad Air Base, 332nd EOSS learning on the job to keep civilian aircraft away from combat areas

BY RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — Air Force air traffic controllers face one unusual challenge when directing aircraft over Iraq: They have to keep civilian planes away from the combat areas.

"It's never been done before," said Master Sgt. Shane Downum, a controller with the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron at Balad.

Baghdad's airport opened to civilian aircraft over the summer, along with other airports in Iraq. Yet the war continues.

"If we need to do a mission in that airspace, we'll block off that airspace," said Maj. T.J. Courtney, director of operations for the 332nd Expeditionary Air Control Squadron at Balad.

His squadron controls military aircraft and helps coordinate it in combat operations, helping support troops on the ground. If he has to block off airspace to prevent civilian aircraft from enter-

ing, he contacts the 332nd EOSS, which operates the radar approach control, called RAPCON in Air Force parlance.

"They can call up and say, 'This airspace is hot,'" said Master Sgt. Michael Bardsley, chief controller.

"We have to constantly change the way we do things just to get aircraft in and out of Baghdad."

Master Sgt. Michael Bardsley

When that happens, the controllers direct civilian aircraft away.

It happens almost daily.

"We have to constantly change the way we do things just to get aircraft in and out of Baghdad," Bardsley said.

Maj. Kevin Edenborough, director of operations for the 332nd EOSS, said "The controllers just make the airspace available so the air control squadron can do what they have to do."

When combat aircraft are on the attack, they are controlled by the 332nd EACS. But when they return, they are in contact with the RAPCON, Edenborough said. This is not the only challenge for the controllers, who operate from a small module in the center

of the airfield. The controllers, more than 20 people from the U.S. and the Australian air forces, are responsible for every aircraft flying over central Iraq, from airliners and cargo planes to unmanned reconnaissance vehicles and fighters.

"We average a little over 12,000 operations a month," Bardsley said. An operation is contact with one aircraft.

They relinquish responsibility



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Master Sgt. Michael Bardsley, and other Air Force air traffic controllers at Balad Air Base, Iraq, are building the air traffic control system for the country.

for the aircraft only when it leaves the 36,000 square miles of airspace they control or it is within five miles of the airfield where it will land. Then, the plane is the

control tower's responsibility.

"It's a huge challenge to de-conflict all the aircraft flying all the different altitudes and all the different speeds," Edenborough said.

That includes, he said, the helicopters, which number in the hundreds around central Iraq on just about any day.

For Air Force controllers, talking to aircraft simply flying over the country is a new task. It's called "in-route" when aircraft originate outside the country or leave the country.

"It's on-the-job training over here," Downum said.

Tech Sgt. Angela Lawhorne, a controller from Luke Air Force Base, said the pace can be "pretty crazy" at times.

"It's a new adventure for all of us," she said. "You walk away from here more knowledgeable. We definitely have a heavy mission on our shoulders."

Edenborough said the controllers arrive with the ability to do the job, but that ability is enhanced by the mission's stress and variety.

"The people who leave the RAPCON will leave with skills nobody back home will have," Edenborough said.

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.strips.osd.mil

Organization sending holiday warmth to troops

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Operation Air Conditioner is now working to bring a little holiday warmth to Iraq and Afghanistan, with shipments of Christmas trees, plastic snowmen and portable heaters already arriving in troops' stockings.

The nonprofit group, founded by Delaware resident Frankie Mayo after her Army son, Cpl. Chris Tomlinson, complained about the intense heat at his Iraq base, has spent the last two summers shipping more than 10,000 air conditioners to units serving in the Middle East.

This fall she has been mailing out winter supplies again, spending more than \$52,000 on heaters, \$130,000 on boots and socks, and \$37,000 on holiday decorations. Those items are expected to be in Iraq by Dec. 25.

"There has been an upswing of both money and people wanting to adopt soldiers and Marines," Mayo said. "We ship at minimum three times a week with a full 24-foot box truck



Frankie Mayo

full of items: care packages, tools, combat boots, supplies — anything [the troops] need or ask us for, really."

Mayo and her family have raised more than \$2.3 million in the last two years to buy and send supplies to Iraq. In addition, Mayo's 12-year-old daughter, Olivia, has begun sending handmade Christmas cards to the troops with the other supplies.

Shipping for the holiday items began in early October, and many troops have already e-mailed her to let her know their bases are beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

First Sgt. Rich Woodring, of the 630th Military Police Company currently serving in Baghdad, said his unit has received



Photo courtesy of Operation Air Conditioner

Mathew Mayo, center, husband of Operation Air Conditioner founder Frankie Mayo, talks to employees earlier this year at Mike's Famous Harley-Davidson in New Castle, Del., as volunteers pack and ship thousands of boots to troops in Iraq. The Mayos have raised more than \$2.3 million to send troops' supplies, including holiday decorations and space heaters currently en route to Iraq and Afghanistan.

11 decorated trees they have spread throughout their camp, and it has boosted everyone's morale.

"Her efforts have definitely helped make our quality of life much better," he told Stars and Stripes via e-mail.

Lt. Col. Myles M. Miyamasu, with the Army's 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, stationed in Fallujah, said often the connection with friendly faces back home is just as important as the gifts the soldiers receive.

"For some of my soldiers who don't have a strong support network back at home,

this has been a godsend," he said via e-mail. "These men now have families to write to, to send birthday cards to, and to have someone recognize them for what they are doing."

For her part, Mayo said she is happy to be able to offer comfort and encouragement to the soldiers serving far from home.

"My hope is that my sons' generation and my daughter's generation grow up in a safer world," she said. "That doesn't happen without a strong military and Ameri-

cans to support the soldiers and Marines in it. I will continue as long as there are troops in Iraq or Afghanistan who need my support."

The U.S. Postal Service has set Dec. 11 as the shipping deadline for care packages and other gifts destined for overseas military bases, but Operation Air Conditioner will continue sending donations and gifts to soldiers into the new year.

For more information, go to: www.operationairc.com
E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@strips.osd.mil

Judge denies GI's request to block Iraq extension

BY SAM HANANEL
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A soldier who challenged an Army policy requiring him to serve past the date of his enlistment contract must return for duty in Iraq while his lawsuit is under review, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth refused to issue a temporary restraining order allowing Spc. David Qualls to remain in the United States, where he is home on leave. He is scheduled to fly to Iraq on Friday.

"It appears to me the extension was legally proper," Lamberth said during the four-hour hearing. "I find no likelihood of success on the merits."

Qualls, 35, is one of eight soldiers challenging the "stop loss" policy that lets the Army extend enlistments during war or national emergencies to promote continuity and cohesiveness on the battlefield.

The lawsuit contends the enlistment contracts are misleading because they make no explicit reference to the policy. The soldiers also say no one told them they could be kept in the service beyond their discharge date.

"Nothing in the contract that I signed says anything about involuntary enlistment," said Qualls. Qualls' attorney, Justice Department attorney Matt Lepore, representing the Army, argued that Qualls' enlistment contract has a provision that says he may be involuntarily ordered to active duty in the event of war, national emergency or any other condition required by law. Lepore said the language



Spc. David Qualls

should be read broadly to include extensions of existing contracts.

Lamberth agreed the language was clear enough and rejected Qualls' claim that the military conflict does not qualify as a war because Congress never made a formal declaration of war.

"I don't think the average person looking at this would think we had to have a declared war" for it to apply, Lamberth said.

About 7,000 active-duty soldiers have had their contracts extended under the policy, and up to 40,000 reserve soldiers also could be ordered to stay longer. The Army says the policy is needed to ensure there are enough experienced soldiers on the battlefield.

The other seven soldiers in the lawsuit — listed as John Does to protect their privacy — are serving in Iraq or are in Kuwait en route to Iraq, according to court papers. The soldiers, believed to be the first active-duty personnel to file such a lawsuit, are asking Lamberth to order the Army to immediately release them from service.

Qualls signed up for a one-year stint in the Arkansas National Guard in July 2003 but has been told he will remain on active duty in Iraq until next year. His pay stub now shows his term of service expiring on Dec. 24, 2031.

Car packages ask for help in Maupin search

CINCINNATI, Ohio — U.S. troops in Iraq opening car packages sent by the family of Army Reserve Spc. Keith "Matt" Maupin are asked for only one favor in return — to help find the captured soldier.

Enclosed in each car package with candy, games, canned goods and other treats is a small plastic bag with 10 homemade pins bearing 21-year-old Maupin's photo. A short note thanking the troops for defending their country also includes the family's simple, heartfelt request: "Please help us find him."

His parents, Carolyn and Keith Maupin, said they sort donations and pack boxes seven days a week at a support center they set up in two donated, empty storefronts in suburban Cincinnati.

"I know he will come back to me," Carolyn Maupin said. She spoke calmly, her hands in constant motion while attaching yellow ribbons to the photos. "Maybe someone will see one of these photos and it will help them find him."

Maupin, missing since his convoy was attacked April 9 west of Baghdad, is the only Army soldier listed as captured in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Rollins, Kilpatrick to visit troops

Singer/actor Henry Rollins and actor Patrick Kilpatrick will be visiting troops deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom during the holidays, according to a United Service Organizations news release.

Rollins, best known as the lead singer of the bands Black Flag and the Rollins Band, will be making his fourth USO tour. Kilpatrick, best known for his role in the movie "Minority Report," is making his first visit to the troops.

During the holiday stopover, the artists will be signing autographs and mingling with the troops, the release stated.

For more information on its celebrity tours, visit the USO Web site at www.uso.org.

From staff and wire reports

Advances in technology keep combat deaths low

But more troops are suffering from severe injuries

BY CECI CONNOLLY
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Ten percent of soldiers injured in Iraq have died from their war wounds, the lowest casualty fatality rate ever, thanks in large part to technological advances and the deployment of surgical SWAT teams at the front lines, an analysis to be published Thursday has found.

But the remarkable lifesaving rate has come at the enormous cost of creating a generation of severely injured young veterans and a severe shortage of military surgeons, wrote Atul Gawande, a surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

The war in Iraq has produced the "largest burden of casualties our military medical personnel have had to cope with since the Vietnam War," said Gawande's report in the New England Journal of Medicine.

By contrast, 24 percent of soldiers wounded in the Vietnam War or the Persian Gulf War did not survive.

"It used to be our thinking that the number of deaths reflects the violence of the war," Gawande said in an interview. "Now, the number of deaths reflects how well surgical teams are doing in saving lives."

More than 10,300 U.S. servicemembers have been killed in Iraq and more than 1,000 of these killed in action, according to Defense Department statistics cited in the report.

Gawande praised the military's strategy of positioning close to the fighting smaller, "leaner and more mobile" surgical teams with the ability to erect a battlefield hospital in less than 60 minutes.

Traveling in Humvees with hand-held ultrasound machines, portable ventilators and an array of medical tools and pharmaceuticals, the teams focus on stabilizing patients and moving them for further treatment in less than two hours.

During the Vietnam War, it took injured soldiers an average of 45 days to reach a hospital in the United States. At the beginning of the Iraq war, the average wait was eight days and now it is four.

One airman hit by a mortar attack in September "was on the operating table at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here just 36 hours later," Gawande said.

The battlefield triage is called "damage control" because the emphasis is on stopping bleeding, keeping a patient warm and leaving almost everything else to doctors at a permanent hospital.

"The combination of Kevlar vests and a system that allows them to stop the bleeding makes it possible for them to survive injuries that were unsurvivable before," he said. "How you rehabili-

tate physically, let alone emotionally, someone who has that kind of loss is a serious question."

For every soldier killed, an average of 10 are injured, he said.

Gawande found similarly low fatality rates among soldiers wounded in Afghanistan.

Early in the Iraqi conflict, when the fighting was more traditional battlefield combat, the most common injuries came from wounds to limbs that were not protected by body armor. More recently, as the engagement has shifted to guerrilla-style warfare with explosive devices, more injuries result from shrapnel that hits under vests and through necks and armbands, Gawande said.

"And with suicide bombers, you see not just metal shrapnel, but also clothing, dirt and even bone from the attacker that is infectious," he said, and can lead to more extensive surgeries and multiple surgeries.

With just 120 general surgeons on active duty in the Army and a similar number in the reserves, Gawande argued the teams are overextended and operating in far more dangerous circumstances.

"Many surgeons have been on a second deployment or an extended deployment, and even this has not been sufficient," he wrote.

The American Medical Association and the state surgeon of the Wisconsin Army National Guard have expressed concerns that the Selective Service System may revise procedures for drafting medical personnel. Such a plan "was not undertaken at the request of anyone" at the Pentagon, a Defense Department statement said yesterday. "Furthermore, there is no need for such a plan."

Col. John B. Holcomb, commander of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, agreed that Iraq can no longer be viewed as a minor conflict. But he said the casualty rate and severity of injuries is not inconsistent with other wars.

A review of historical documents shows that "head and extremity injuries predominate, at least back to World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam," he said. Perhaps Gawande, who lacks military experience, was unaccustomed to the level of trauma seen in war. Holcomb said.

The number of general surgeons serving in Iraq is not as high as in the Persian Gulf War 13 years ago, Holcomb acknowledged. However, he said the key was placing the right doctors and nurses in the right place.

Iraq has brought other unanticipated medical challenges. Soldiers were suffering a "dismaying high incidence of blindness injuries" because they refused to wear goggles that they described as "something a Florida senior citizen would wear." So the military bowed to fashion. "Gawande said, and purchased cheaper protective eyewear that appears to be serving its purpose."

Battle Wounds

U.S. soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan are dying at a much lower rate than in previous military conflicts.

War	Wounded or killed in action	Killed in action	Lethality of war wounds
Revolutionary War	10,623	4,435	42%
War of 1812	6,765	2,240	33%
Mexican War	5,885	1,733	29%
Civil War	422,295	140,414	33%
Spanish-American War	7,047	385	19%
World War I	257,044	54,042	21%
World War II	963,403	291,557	30%
Korean War	137,025	33,741	25%
Persian Gulf War	200,727	47,424	24%
War in Iraq and Afghanistan	614	147	24%
	10,369	1,004	10%

SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine



AP PHOTO/SCOTT B. ROBERTSON/REUTERS

Rusty Davis smooths out rough edges as he puts an armored door on a U.S. military Humvee in April at the O'Garra-Hess plant in Fairfield, Ohio.

AP



DoD: Unexpected tactics by insurgents resulted in deficit

The Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON — A shortage of "up-armored" Humvees in Iraq, highlighted Wednesday by a soldier's pointed question to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, is a consequence of insurgent tactics the military didn't anticipate, the Pentagon's chief spokesman said.

The Army ramped up production of such Humvees from 15 to 450 a month last year after insurgents started using "improvised explosive devices" — homemade bombs — against U.S. and allied troops, Pentagon spokesman Lawrence D. Rita noted.

While U.S. troops in Iraq remain thousands of armored Humvees short, the Army's effort is "one of the great sort of stories of what happens in the United States when the country is at war," Di Rita said.

Cris said the country's at war, the war begins and then we start to mobilize, and this is a perfect example of the kind of mobilization that took place."

Cris said the shortage was more evidence that the Bush administration was unprepared for what would happen in Iraq after U.S. forces removed dictator Saddam Hussein.

"This was, once again, a miscalculation by the Pentagon of exactly what kind of environment we would have after the fall of Saddam," said Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif., a House Armed Services Committee member.

Di Rita said that the fact that commanders did not anticipate the need for more armored vehicles in Iraq until well after the war itself was over did not reflect poor planning on the part of Pentagon leaders, as some critics have alleged.

"Combat planning is not a crystal ball; it's not predictions," Di Rita said. "It's the ability to be flexible enough to change things as needed."

The issue of armor shortages arose last year. Some parents of soldiers in Iraq reported having to buy flask vests for their sons and daughters because the Army was short of body armor and Humvees with the extra armor needed to withstand IEDs and rocket-propelled grenades.

Newsmen's role in question

An American reporter has said he was involved in the soldier's questioning of Rumsfeld. Edward Lee Pitts, a reporter for the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Free Press, is embedded in the same unit as Spc. Thomas Wilson who asked Rumsfeld the question about armored vehicles. In a note to his fellow staffers in Chattanooga, which was reproduced on the Romanesco inside-the-media Web site, Pitts said he was told that only soldiers could ask Rumsfeld questions, "so I brought two of them along with me as escorts."

Pitts said: "Beforehand, we worked on questions to ask Rumsfeld about the appalling lack of armor their vehicles going into combat have." He said that while waiting for Rumsfeld, he found the person in charge of the microphone to be used in the question-and-answer session and made sure he knew to get my guys out of the crowd."

From staff reports

Safer Humvees en route

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — As of Wednesday, 282 up-armored Humvees are on ships en route to the Mideast, adding to the nearly 6,000 in place, Army spokesmen said Thursday.

The U.S. military has 19,389 Humvees in Iraq and Kuwait, and 5,910 of the trucks "up-armored," or built with a chassis that accommodates special armor.

Another 9,134 Humvees that do not have the heavy armor chassis have been equipped with add-on armor kits to protect doors, floors and other vulnerable elements, according to statistics provided to Stars and Stripes on Thursday by the Army.

Another 252 armor kits are in Iraq or Kuwait awaiting installation.

But that leaves 4,345 Humvees in the Iraq theater with no armor at all, a situation that Army leaders have pledged to remedy by April 2005.

Military leaders responsible for the Iraq theater, who are at the U.S. Central Command in Florida, have decided that they need no fewer than 8,105 up-armored Humvees in the Iraq theater, as well as an additional 13,872 add-on armor kits, Army spokesmen Nancy Ray said Thursday.

That is enough armor to provide for all of the 19,389 Humvees now operating in the Iraq theater, as well as additional armor kits for different types of

vehicles, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker told members of the House Armed Services Committee during a Nov. 17 hearing.

Until August 2003, the Army had only 235 up-armored Humvees in Iraq.

But last September, as improvised explosive devices began to take more and more of a toll on U.S. forces in Iraq, alarmed Army leaders decided to accelerate the purchase and fielding of so-called "up-armored" Humvees.

The Army has been working on getting armored Humvees in Iraq ever since, Schoomaker said Nov. 17.

"We had 235 up-armored Humvees in-theater last year, and then we got a requirement for 1,407, so we started chasing that requirement," Schoomaker told members of Congress. "A month later, we got a requirement for 3,000, and then it went to 4,150, and then it went to 6,223, and now it's gone to 8,105."

In fact, as the requirement continued to climb, "What we now have figured out is, look what the heck, we better up-armor everything we've got over there," Schoomaker told lawmakers. "And that's what we're doing."

Schoomaker told lawmakers that the entire requirement of 8,105 up-armored Humvees should be in the Iraq theater by April 2005.

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Rumsfeld says Army expected to resolve concerns over armor

Statement in response to GI's question

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — A day after being challenged by a soldier on the Army's failure to provide adequate armor for vehicles used in Iraq, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Thursday they expect the Army to do its best to resolve the problem.

Thousands of miles away, President Bush echoed Rumsfeld's sentiments.

"The concerns expressed are being addressed and that is — we expect our troops to have the best possible equipment," Bush said at the White House. "If I were a soldier overseas wanting to defend my country I'd want to ask the secretary of defense the same question. And that is, 'Are we getting the best we can get us?' And they deserve the best."

On Thursday, several Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee on Thursday repeated calls for new hearings on whether troops in Iraq are getting the protective equipment they need.

Rumsfeld, on a visit to the Indian capital, said it was good that ordinary soldiers are given a chance to express their concerns to the secretary of defense and senior military commanders.

"It is the duty of the Army to hear that, do something about it and see that everyone is treated properly," Rumsfeld said, referring not only to the complaint about insufficient armor but also another soldier's statement about not getting reimbursed for cer-

tain expenses in a timely way. Those complaints, and others, were aired on Wednesday when Rumsfeld held a "town hall" style meeting with about 2,300 soldiers at Camp Buehring in northern Kuwait.

Spc. Thomas Wilson had asked Rumsfeld, "Why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to armor our vehicles?"

Asked on Thursday about that exchange, the defense secretary said he believed the session in general was "very fine, warm [and] enjoyable." As for Wilson's statement, Rumsfeld said it could be constructive.

Wilson's ex-wife, Regina, said she was not surprised he challenged Rumsfeld, beginning in 1994, "It wouldn't matter if it was Bush himself standing there," she said. "He would have dismissed him the same."

Wilson joined the National Guard in June 2003; previously, he had served about four years in the Air Force, beginning in 1994.

Rumsfeld said people should understand that the military has done all that can reasonably be expected to adjust to changing circumstances in Iraq as the insurgents have refined their tactics.

Marines in Fallujah get by with available armor

The Associated Press

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. Marines patrolling the former insurgent stronghold of Fallujah — some in open Humvees — say they've had some close calls, but "get by well" with the vehicle and body armor they have.

"I think the armor we have for the vehicles is getting better and our body armor is OK, I have nothing against it," Sgt. Aaron D'Amico said Wednesday.

Told about complaints from disgruntled soldiers who told Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld earlier Wednesday they lacked armored vehicles and other equipment, D'Amico said: "I'd definitely opt for higher production of armor, but the Marine gets by well with what we have."

D'Amico said his unit, the 1st Battalion of the 8th Marine Regi-

ment, received new, upgraded vehicle armor a year ago, with Kevlar-protected seats. D'Amico's only complaint is that the open-roof Humvee provides no protection at the back.

The armor the Marines receive is "usually" leftovers from the Army, the Army usually gets the better stuff," he added.

At least 54 deaths occurred during the Marine-led assault on Fallujah.

D'Amico said his closest call occurred four months ago in the town of Haditha in central Iraq, when a roadside bomb blew up by the side of his vehicle.

The blast and flying shrapnel nicked the side armor of the Humvee door but injured no one inside.

D'Amico said it was not just the vehicle armor that saved them, but also the bomb-makers' lack of skill in planting the device too deep to cause serious damage.



Rumsfeld

EUCOM focuses on quality-of-life issues

By CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

GARMISCH, Germany — After three days of discussing the biggest problems facing U.S. troops and their families, the top enlisted leaders in Europe know it's up to them to find the solutions.

The command sergeants major said participants at this week's U.S. European Command Quality of Life Conference walked away with more than just another binder, pocketful of business cards and pretty photographs of the Bavarian Alps.

They left with a mission: take care of the troops.

"We have some of the brightest kids in the United States," said Marine Command Sgt. Maj. John Mersino of the U.S. European Command. "You can't retain these guys if you blow them off. You can't retain them if you don't take care of them."

"So the credibility issue is on our shoulders now to take these issues forward, address them, and find solutions for as many as we possibly can."

The conference, held Monday through Wednesday at the Edelweiss Lodge, was to air concerns about pay, housing, medical care and other issues. The issues were discussed and prioritized and recommendations were made.

Among those in attendance to hear the recommendations were EUCOM Chief of Staff Army Lt. Gen. Colby Broadwater III, and Acting Deputy Undersecretary for Defense for Military Personnel Policy William J. Carr.

Mersino said that U.S. troops, especially young ones who are fighting in wars, are given great responsibilities and should be compensated as well as, or better than, employees in the private sector.

"We have 18-, 19-year-old kids who make decisions involving human life on the battlefield," Mersino said. "Those are decisions any CEO in any major corporation would be scared to death to make. But we've got kids doing it every single day."



Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael

"That's the quality that we as institutions have to maintain. And you can't do that by breaking promises, breaking faith and not following through on what you said you were going to do."

More than 400 issues that had been raised by troops, family members and civilians were whittled down at the conference to a top-20 list of issues.

Some issues addressed the deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and other sites: inadequate training and equipping before deployment, and few services or outreach for the deployed's spouses and children. Others pointed out the bumps encountered in dealing with everyday hassles pertaining to housing, relocation or insurance.

Top issues were then given recommendations on how to fix the problem.

For example, for spouses looking for work, it was suggested that military communities create a hub for local job opportunities. Currently, in some cases, job-seekers are forced to plow through worldwide listings to find positions in their area.

Another suggestion was to allow accrued education benefits not used by servicemembers to be used instead by their spouses and children.

Tending to family needs helps



Sgt. Maj. John Mersino

the warfighter stay focused, according to Marine Sgt. Maj. Alford McMichael, senior noncommissioned officer at NATO's Allied Command Operations.

"If I know the medical requirements for my family are being taken care of when I deploy, I can focus on my mission," McMichael said.

"When I know my child is getting the proper education and my spouse is getting educational opportunities, that makes me more efficient to do the things I have taken an oath to do."

Command Master Chief Paul Knauser, a Navy SEAL and the top NCO for Special Operations Command Europe, said he was confident that steps would be taken as a result of the conference.

"The terminology I hear used more and more often is the '30-year career,'" Knauser said. To make the military as attractive (an employer) as a Fortune 500 company, they're going to have to do things ... to address the whole family to keep people in for that long.

"I have absolute certainty these individuals who are here are going to take these back and address them. If there is a slowing down of inertia, then it's our responsibility to prod and poke and make sure the answers do come out."

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DODDS seeks \$10 million to offer summer classes

GARMISCH, Germany — Last year, after 1st Armored Division soldiers were told they'd be staying in Iraq longer than expected, schools were opened in the summer to help keep their kids busy.

Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Baumholder, Giessen, Hanau and Wiesbaden stayed open for four weeks for students in kindergarten through eighth grades until the soldiers returned to Germany in late July.

DODDS officials are asking the Defense Department for up to \$10 million to pay for summer school in Europe and Asia in anticipation of troops being deployed. They said they'd need to know by Jan. 31 if the funding was coming in order to start registering students and lining up teachers and other staff.

The potential need was one of the issues raised this week at the U.S. European Command Quality of Life Conference. "We need to get a resolution to funding and other issues early enough to develop a program," said Dr. Joseph Tafaya, director of the Department of Defense Education Activity, which oversees DODDS. "That way, we can let the command and the schools and our teachers know what we need to do next summer, or if we need to do anything."

Tafaya said the requested funding would pay for summer school in Europe and Asia. Stateside DOD schools are already funded for summer school. Tafaya also said that specific commands, such as EUCOM, U.S. Air Forces in Europe or U.S. Army Europe, could pay for their own local summer schooling. For example, last year USAERU paid for the 1st AD schools to stay open.

"The biggest thing was the fact that we cared, we scrambled and we made it happen," said Diana Ohman, director of DODDS-Europe. "And they thought, 'Man, they did this for us, and thank you.'"



Joseph Tafaya



Diana Ohman

"Academically, any kind of summer months' injection of information and continued knowledge is a good thing for any child."

Tafaya said he would prefer to hold summer school at all DODDS schools so each student has equal access. Ohman said that the Jan. 31 target date is fair.

"It takes that long to do the right thing by teachers and not press them and ask them if it fits into their summer plans," she said. "There's a lot of stuff you have to work through."

— Charlie Coon

Army major wins \$8.7M in damages in rollover suit

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A former Army major left paraplegic after a rollover crash in Saudi Arabia has received more than \$8.7 million in a federal damage award.

Ford Motor Co. was responsible for a defect in the roof design of a 1996 Ford Crown Victoria, and that it contributed to spinal injuries sustained by Barry Muth in 1999, an eight-member jury decided on Wednesday.

Muth, 46, of San Antonio and family members — his wife and three children — should receive almost half of the \$17.6 million his lawyers requested in closing arguments, jurors found after deliberating about two hours.

Ford plans an appeal.

But the 18-year Army veteran, who was

stationed at Tins Ekan Village with the Army's Tank Automotive Command out of Detroit at the time of the crash, said he was satisfied with the award. It includes damages for future medical expenses, physical pain, disfigurement and impairment, and loss of retirement benefits.

"The outcome is what should have happened," he said.

"If we can strengthen a roof and that makes all the difference, then why wouldn't they do that? For a minimum of \$9 or \$31, I could have walked away, and we wouldn't be doing this."

He was a front-seat passenger in a Crown Victoria driven by another Army major.

The car struck a concrete median divider and straddled it on April 22, 1999, then

fell into the opposite lanes, landing on its roof.

Jurors in Senior U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice's court heard attorneys and experts for Muth and Ford battle over whether the car landed on its roof or on its side, and how the veteran was injured.

During the two-week trial, Muth's witnesses contended the roof crumpled 12 inches, slamming into Muth's head.

Experts testifying on Muth's behalf said adding safety improvements that cost \$9 to \$31 would have significantly reduced how much the roof caved in and saved him from serious injury.

"I think the jury sent a message to all manufacturers that complying with the minimum federal standards for roof strength isn't enough," Thomas A. Harkness of Austin, one of Muth's lawyers, said.

"The jury wants them to build a safe vehicle."

Experts for Muth contended that Ford fought requests by the federal National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to strengthen roofs on vehicles as far back as the early 1970s.

The auto maker denied that the car was defective.

It said it met the federal government's minimum safety guidelines.

Ford's experts testified Muth's head had never been injured because it may have hit the roof when the car was tires-up, not because the roof crumpled.

Gary Toole of Orlando, Fla., a lawyer for Ford, told jurors in closing arguments that the roof design was not defective.

He instead blamed the driver for going 21 mph over the 48 mph speed limit and causing the rollover.

IN THE STATES

Bush taps new VA chief

Housing, Interior, Labor and Transportation secretaries to stay

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush announced on Thursday that Jim Nicholson, former chairman of the Republican National Committee and current U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, is his choice as the next secretary of the Veterans Affairs Department.

Veterans Secretary Anthony Principi on Wednesday became the ninth member of Bush's 15-person Cabinet to leave. Nicholson, chosen to replace him, is a decorated Vietnam veteran.

Bush has also asked the secretaries of the Transportation, Labor, Interior and Housing departments to remain. They have all agreed, completing decisions about which Cabinet members will stay for his second term.

Bush spoke with the four Cabinet secretaries — Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, Interior Secretary Gale Norton, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson and Labor Secretary Elaine Chao — to secure their decisions to remain in the Cabinet, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

"Jim Nicholson is a patriot, a man of great conviction who can answer his country's call many times," Bush said in the brief Roosevelt Room announcement ceremony.

Nicholson stood at his side, with his wife and two of their children looking on.

"When I met of growing up dirt poor in a tenant house with-



President Bush introduces Jim Nicholson, his choice to replace Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi. The announcement took place Thursday in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. Nicholson had been ambassador to the Vatican.

out plumbing and sometimes without food, I marvel at America, that the boy from Struble, Iowa, may serve in the president's Cabinet. How could this be?" Nicholson said.

"For me, it is because of the opportunities my country gave me as a cadet at West Point and as a soldier. These experiences have defined my life."

The White House had announced Wednesday that Treasury Secretary John Snow would remain in his post.

Bush still must fill the top jobs at the Energy and Health and Human Services departments. McClellan said Thursday he would not speculate on who would take those jobs.

Energy chief Spencer Abra-

ham announced his resignation on Nov. 15, which suggests the White House has had difficulty finding a replacement.

Medicare chief Mark McClellan, who also has served as commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and is the brother of White House press secretary McClellan — is considered to be Bush's top choice to replace Secretary Tommy Thompson at Health and Human Services.

The amount of changeover in Bush's Cabinet is on the high side for a second-term president. Presidents Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan saw seven Cabinet seats change hands after they won new terms. President Richard Nixon nine and Presidents Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson four each.



Jeff Logan of Columbus, Ohio, leans down to place plastic flowers and a bottle of "Dead Guy Ale" on a rock outside the Alosra Villa in Columbus, Ohio, on Thursday. A gunman charged onstage there and opened fire on the band Damageplan, killing guitarist "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott and three others before he was shot and killed by police.

4 fatally shot at Ohio concert

Guitarist "Dimebag" Abbott among those killed at club

BY JAY COHEN

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A gunman charged onstage at a nightclub and opened fire on the band and crowd, killing top heavy metal guitarist "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott and three other people before a police officer shot him to death, authorities said.

The gunman had a hostage in a headlock and appeared to be preparing to kill him when the officer fired, police spokesman Sgt. Brent Mull said. The hostage escaped uninjured, Mull said.

Two other people were hospitalized. Police said one was in intensive care and the other stable.

Police identified the gunman as Nathan Gale, 25, of Marysville, 25 miles northwest of Columbus. Police said they had no information on a motive or any connection to Abbott or his band, the Texas-based group Damageplan.

Damageplan had just begun its first song at Alosra Villa club Wednesday night when the gunman climbed onstage, started yelling and shot Abbott five or six times at point-blank range, witness Chris Couch said.

Mull said the gunman's exact statement was unclear because of the loud music. He said some witnesses reported hearing an accusation about Abbott breaking up his former band, thrash-rock pioneer Pantera, but it could not be confirmed whether the speaker was the gunman or a fan.

Couch, 22, said the man was

wearing a hooded sweat shirt and was followed by a bouncer and another club employee.

Couch said that after firing on the guitarist, the gunman shot a bouncer who had pulled him off the musician, while fans surged toward the exit. The gunman then fired into the crowd of more than 250 people, Mull said.

Mull said Officer James D. Niggemeyer, patrolling nearby, arrived within two minutes of hearing the call. Niggemeyer, 31, saw one person lying dead and the suspect holding onto another "pretty much in a headlock," Mull said.

He said the hostage, "probably a fan, maybe someone who worked with the band," was able to maneuver out of the way before the officer fired.

Besides Abbott and Gale, police said the dead included Nathan Bray, 23, and Erin Halk, 29. Police said the name of the fifth person killed was being withheld pending notification of family.

Couch said he believed the shooter had a plan. "It was definitely a grudge. It was against something," he said.

Mull said he believed there was amateur video that officers could use for clues but that police had no answers yet. "We may never know a motive for this, unless he left a note," Mull said.

Gale has a minor police record in Marysville, said Police Chief Floyd Golden. He was pulled over for driving with a suspended license last month.

Coast Guard copter crashes

Helicopter went down during rescue mission off Alaska's coast

BY MATT VOLZ

The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A Coast Guard rescue helicopter ferrying crew members from a stranded freighter crashed in the Bering Sea, leaving six people missing in the rough and frigid water. The ship they left behind ran aground and split apart.

The other four on the helicopter — three Coast Guard personnel and one crewmember — were picked up by another helicopter participating in the rescue, the Coast Guard said. They were taken to Dutch Harbor on nearby Unalaska Island for medical treatment.

There was no immediate word of their condition.

The freighter is owned by Singapore-based IMC Group and is registered under a Malaysian flag. Its crew was Filipino and Indian, the Coast Guard said.

Two other people who had stayed behind on the ship were rescued separately,

as were 18 other crewmembers taken off the ship earlier.

The Coast Guard had been struggling to help the 738-foot freighter, the Selendang Ayu, since Tuesday when it began drifting after its main engine broke down. But 25-foot swells and 30-knot winds hampered efforts.

Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Roger Wetherell said the search was continuing early Thursday for the six missing. The water temperature was about 43 degrees Fahrenheit and the waves were as high as 20 feet. After daybreak a plane and two helicopters will be dispatched to join the search, Wetherell said.

"The survival time is right through three hours in those conditions," Rear Adm. James Olson, commander of the Coast Guard in Alaska, said earlier. "We'll search as long as we can be effective throughout the night."

Olson said he did not know whether the crewmembers were wearing survival gear.

The cause of the crash was not known.

Copter crashes in Bering Sea

A Coast Guard helicopter with 10 people aboard crashed into the Bering Sea while airlifting crew from a freighter grounded on Unalaska Island. Six people were unaccounted for.



SOURCE: ESRI

Spy program draws fire from Democrats

Legislation is separate from intelligence overhaul bill

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The latest mystery in Washington espionage circles came to light in an unlikely venue: the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Tucked inside Congress' new blueprint for U.S. intelligence spending is a highly classified and expensive spy program that drew exceptional criticism from leading Democrats.

In an unusually public rebuke of a secret government project, Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, the senior Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, complained Wednesday that the program was "totally unjustified and very, very wasteful and dangerous to the national security."

He called the program "stunningly expensive."

Rockefeller and three other Democratic senators — Richard Durbin of Illinois, Carl Levin of Michigan and Ron Wyden of Oregon — refused to sign the congressional compromise negotiated by others in the House and Senate that provides for future U.S. intelligence activities.

The compromise noted that the four senators believed the mystery program was unnecessary and its cost unjustified and that "they believe that the funds for this item should be expended on other intelligence programs that will make a surer and greater contribution to national security."

Each senator — and more than two dozen current and former U.S. officials contacted by The Associated Press — declined to further describe or identify the disputed program, citing its classified nature.

Thirteen other senators on the Intelligence Committee and all their counterparts in the House approved the compromise.

Despite objections from some in the Senate, Congress has approved the program for the past two years, Rockefeller said.

The Senate voted to send the legislation to President Bush on Wednesday night. The bill is separate from the intelligence overhaul legislation that also won final congressional approval Wednesday.

No lighters on planes

WASHINGTON — Passengers already are barred from smoking on commercial airline flights in the United States. Now they won't be allowed to bring their butane lighters on board, either.

As part of the intelligence reform bill passed Wednesday, Congress added the lighters to the long list of items, including scissors, pen knives and box cutters, that passengers are barred from carrying on to planes. The ban does not apply to checked luggage.

Matches still are allowed. The ban takes effect 60 days after President Bush signs the intelligence reform bill into law.

Parents win lawsuit

CHICAGO — The parents of an American teenager killed by gunmen in the West Bank won \$156 million from three Islamic groups and an alleged Hamas fund-raiser, one of the first jury awards against U.S.-based institutions accused of supporting terrorism.

A federal court jury set \$52 million in damages Wednesday in the suit brought by Joyce and Stanley Boim, the parents of 17-year-old David Boim, who was shot near the Israeli settlement of Beit El. U.S. Magistrate Arlander Keys tripled the amount in accord with U.S. anti-terrorism law.

The case was the first in which jurors awarded damages from U.S.-based charities accused of bankrolling Hamas, according to attorney Nathan Lewin.

From The Associated Press

Bush rules out tax increase for Social Security

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Thursday flatly ruled out raising payroll taxes to ensure the solvency of Social Security as he began a push for historic changes in the retirement program.

Bush renewed his call for legislation that would let workers create private retirement accounts within the government-run program.

"We will not raise payroll taxes to solve this problem," Bush said as he met in the Oval Office with a panel of advisers on the Social Security issue.

Bush sidestepped questions about whether the nation can afford to borrow in order to confront a shortfall in the trillions of dollars.

"I will not prejudice any solution," Bush said.

At a time of record deficits, estimates of the money needed range from \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion or more over a decade. Bush said the total unfunded liability is \$11 trillion.

"Does this country have the will to address this problem? I think it

must," Bush said, sitting next to Treasury Secretary John Snow and the members of his panel.

"There is a recognition among the experts that we have a problem, and the problem is America is getting older and that there are fewer to pay into the system to support a baby boomer generation which is about to retire," Bush said. "We have a responsibility to solve problems before they become acute."

The call for private accounts is the most controversial element of

Bush's vision for a remodeled Social Security. Administration officials had signaled previously that they were leaning toward borrowing to finance the changes, rather than raising taxes.

A presidential commission in 2001 proposed allowing individuals to place up to 2 percent of their payroll into a private account to be invested for retirement. Any such plan depends on a large infusion of cash to replace the tax money that would otherwise fund the government benefits.

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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Parking enforcement agent Mary Moore accepts a toy at a parking violations line at City Hall in Boston on Wednesday. To help boost donations to the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots campaign, the city is allowing people to settle their parking debts with toys of equal or greater value than their tickets.

Parking violations turn into bonanza for Santa in Boston

Toys as good as money for paying tickets

BY KAREN TESTA
The Associated Press

BOSTON — For a limited time, the city of Boston is accepting a new form of payment for parking tickets: Cabbage Patch Kids, Morphians, even Mega Bloks.

To help boost donations to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign, city officials are allowing motorists to pay their fines with toys equal in value to the amount owed. Offenders must produce a sales receipt.

Marcia Harris showed up at City Hall on Wednesday with stuffed animals, a yo-yo and other toys to pay off her \$36 violation for an expired meter.

She said she was initially irritated to get a ticket just "20 seconds" after her meter ran out. The meter maid handed her a piece of paper informing her of the offer.

"I thought the paper would say I could go protest at City Hall," Harris said. "This was much better. I would spend two-for-one; I think this is such a great idea."

Tickets issued Dec. 1, 2 or 3 are

eligible for the program, excluding those issued for public safety reasons, such as parking in front of a handicap ramp, in a crosswalk or in a fire lane. The city is accepting toys until Friday.

"I think it should go longer — maybe any ticket in December," said Theresa Labriola, who set a \$20 violation for an expired inspection sticker with two Groovy Girl dolls. "It just takes 10 minutes out of your day, and it makes you feel better about getting a ticket."

Zonks!, a toy store in Faneuil Hall, just across the street from City Hall, is offering a 15 percent discount to customers who show a Boston parking ticket.

Marine Sgt. Maj. Rudy Wieners said he knew of no other city in the country that offers a similar ticket exchange to benefit Toys for Tots. Boston has been running the program since 1999.

"These toys go to needy kids. And it's bad enough to get a ticket, but at least you feel the money is going to something that means something rather than being thrown in a big pot up there in Boston," he said.

Dick Clark counts on being better for New Year's Eve

BY DEREK ROSE
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Dick Clark was in the hospital recovering from a mild stroke Wednesday, still hopeful he would make it to Times Square for his New Year's Eve special.

The 75-year-old entertainment legend suffered the stroke Monday and was recuperating at an undisclosed Los Angeles-area hospital, his spokesman said.

"The doctors tell me I should be back in the swing of things before too long, so I'm hopeful to be able to make it to Times Square to help lead the country in bringing in the new year once again," Clark said in a statement.

The "American Bandstand" pioneer is scheduled to host "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve 2005" on ABC for what would be the 33rd consecutive year.

Clark's spokesman, Paul Sheffrin, called the stroke mild but declined to say whether his speech had been affected.



Dick Clark at last year's New Year's celebrations in Times Square, New York. Clark was hospitalized this week after suffering a mild stroke.

"The question in my mind is, does he have any speech deficits?" said Dr. Albert Favate, a neurologist at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City.

If so — or if Clark has suffered facial disfigurement or has trouble standing — the three weeks until New Year's Eve might not be sufficient time to recover, Favate said.

Clark's Dec. 31 special airs on ABC but is independently produced by his production company, which also makes the NBC drama "American Dreams."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Dick," said Jeff Zucker, president of NBC Universal Television Group.

Clark made his name after "Bandstand" went national in the late 1950s, and he began hosting the New Year's Eve special to ring in 1972.

"I had no idea I'd be standing out there 30 years," Clark told the New York Daily News in 2001. "I always look forward to it. It's an occasion... and for New Yorkers it's part of everyone's life."

Martha Stewart to return to television after jail time

BY DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Martha Stewart may still be in the clink, but it appears there's no caging her appeal as television's domestic diva.

Stewart will revive her daily homemaking show next September, it was announced Wednesday — this time before a live audience, with celebrity guests and the help of "The Apprentice" producer Mark Burnett.

Stewart, not allowed to conduct business in prison, was not involved in the deal with NBC Universal to syndicate the show but is "very pleased," said Susan Lyne, president of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia.

NBC-owned stations in 14 major cities have already agreed to air the daytime show, and deals will be sought in other cities.

"Millions of people feel that Martha got a raw deal," Burnett said. "America loves comeback stories."

Stewart and her former stockbroker were convicted in March of lying to investigators about why

she sold ImClone Systems Inc. stock in 2001. Stewart, who's appealing her conviction, is serving a five-month sentence at a minimum-security federal prison for women in Alderson, W.Va. She'll be released in March.

For five months after that, she will be fitted with an ankle bracelet and confined to her Bedford, N.Y., estate, but allowed to conduct business for 48 hours a week.

Her old show, "Martha Stewart Living," was put on hiatus last summer after its 11th season. She will trend familiar territory on the yet-to-be-titled new show, including cooking, entertaining, decorating and home renovation.

Burnett said he watched several hours of outtakes from "Martha Stewart Living" and often found them more entertaining and reflective of her personality than the show itself. Interaction with a studio audience and guests will add a new element to what she does, he said.

Judging by celebrities who turned out at Stewart's trial to offer support — Rosie O'Donnell, Bill Cosby and Brian Dennehy — Burnett said he expected many to be willing to appear as guests.

Vote costs job

NEW YORK — A Board of Elections employee has been fired for defying a supervisor's order and leaving her post to vote on Election Day.

The board's commissioners voted Tuesday to fire Debra Fuller, 65, who took a 40-minute break to cast her vote. Fuller has been a clerk at the board for 20 years.

Fuller said she was within her rights and vowed to take the case to arbitration under the election workers' union, Local 1183 of the Communications Workers of America.

Living-will death

ORLANDO, Fla. — A man whose living will led a hospital to seek permission from a judge to pull his life support died after doctors removed his ventilator.

Hanford L. Pinette, 73, stopped breathing less than two hours after doctors removed the mechanical breathing apparatus at Lucerne Hospital on Wednesday, said his wife, Alice Pinette.

Orlando Regional Healthcare System Inc. said the military veteran was in a terminal state, could not make decisions for himself and was unlikely to recover. He was being kept alive by a ven-

tilator, a dialysis machine and medication.

Seat belt ruling

WASHINGTON — All passenger vehicles sold in the United States must have shoulder and lap belts in the rear center seat by the 2008 model year under a federal rule issued Wednesday.

Three out of four new passenger cars already have the belts, but only half of pickups and sport utility vehicles do.

NHTSA estimates the rule will save up to 23 lives and prevent up to 495 injuries each year.

From wire reports

Linguist deciphers the meaning of 'dude'

BY MIKE CRISSEY
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Dude, you've got to read this.

A linguist from the University of Pittsburgh has published a scholarly paper deconstructing and deciphering the word "dude," contending it is much more than a catchall for lazy, inarticulate surfers, skaters, slackers and teenagers.

An admitted dude-user during his college years, Scott Kiesling said the four-letter word has many uses: in greetings ("What's up, dude?"), as an exclamation ("Whoa, Dude!"), commiseration

("Dude, I'm so sorry"); to one-up someone ("That's so lame, dude"); as well as agreement, surprise and disgust ("Dude!").

Kiesling says the final edition of American Speech that the word derives its power from something he calls cold solidarity — an effortless kinship that's not too intimate.

Cold solidarity is especially important to young men who are under social pressure to be close with other young men, but not enough to be suspected as gay.

In other words: Close, dude, but not that close.

"It's like 'man' or 'buddy';

there is often this male-male addressed term that says, 'I'm your friend but not much more than your friend,'" said Kiesling,

whose research focuses on language and masculinity. To decode the word's meaning,

Kiesling listened to conversations with fraternity members he taped



Kiesling

in 1993. He also had undergraduate students in sociolinguistics classes in 2001 and 2002 write down the first 20 times they heard "dude" and who said it during a three-day period.

He found the word taps into nonconformity and a new American image of leisurely success.

Anecdotally, men were the predominant users of the word, but women sometimes call each other dudes.

Less frequently, men will call women dudes and vice versa. But that comes with some rules, according to self-reporting from students in a 2002 language and gender class included in the paper.

"Men report that they use dude with women but not with women close friends, but with women with whom they are intimate," according to the study.

His students also reported that they were least likely to use the word with parents, bosses and professors.

Historically, dude originally meant "old rags" and a "dude" was a scarecrow. In the late 1800s, a "dude" was akin to a "dandy," a meticulously dressed man, especially out West. It became "cool" in the 1930s and 1940s, according to Kiesling. Dude began its rise in the teenage lexicon with the 1981 movie "Fast Times at Ridgemont High."

Study: Implanted defibrillators only help six months after heart attack

BY LINDA A. JOHNSON
The Associated Press

Implanting defibrillators in patients just weeks after a heart attack does not improve their chances of survival, according to an international study. The researchers suggested instead that patients wait several months before having one of the devices inserted in the chest.

The findings could have big implications for Medicare, which is about to expand coverage for the \$25,000 devices to many more people.

Implanted defibrillators, such as the one Vice President Dick Cheney has, shock the heart back into a normal rhythm when it starts beating irregularly. Research has shown these devices save lives, but those studies were done almost exclusively on patients six months to several years after their heart at-

tack.

The new study found that defibrillators offer little benefit in the early days after a heart attack, when patients with damaged and weakened heart muscle are most likely to die. In the study, reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, lives saved among patients who suffered abnormal rhythms were basically canceled out by deaths from heart problems unrelated to rhythm.

For doctors, this finding may complicate deciding exactly when to install the devices, and in which patients.

The study involved patients who suffered a muscle-damaging heart attack just 6 to 40 days earlier, a group at high risk of death from another heart attack or gradual heart failure, or from abnormal rhythms.

In the United States, doctors usually wait at least one to three

months after a patient's heart attack before implanting a defibrillator, said American Heart Association spokesman Dr. Kenneth Ellenbogen, a professor at Medical College of Virginia.

Currently, Medicare covers implantation of a defibrillator as little as a month after a heart attack. The federal health program for the elderly is expected to adopt a controversial plan by the end of the month to pay for the devices for many more patients, including people who have not had a heart attack but whose hearts are so damaged they cannot pump enough blood.

"The study provides a lot of important information (on timing of implantation), and we'll definitely be looking at it carefully as we make our final determination," said Dr. Sean T. O'Keefe, medical officer at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.



THE ROANOKE TIMES/AP

Carolyn LeCroy, a volunteer with Women in Transition Inc., applies makeup to Jessie Coe before he videotaped a Christmas greeting for his kids at the Botetourt Correction Center on Monday in Troutville, Va.

Holiday greetings from prison

BY LAURENCE HAMMAK
The Roanoke Times

TROUTVILLE, Va. — Sitting in front of a video camera, with a backdrop of Christmas lights strung between two barred windows, Thomas Powers was as close as he'll get to being home for the holidays.

He peered nervously into the camera that soon will provide a link between the Botetourt Correctional Center, where Powers is serving three years for a probation violation, and a home in Pulaski, where two young girls will celebrate another Christmas without their father.

"Remember your kids at home? They're right here," photographer Kevin O'Sullivan told Powers as he tapped the camera lens.

Powers took a deep breath and began. "Hi, Alexandra, this is your father," he said. "I know we haven't seen each other in a long time."

The message that followed — halting, yet heartfelt — was one of dozens being videotaped this week at prisons across Virginia. The tapes will be gift-wrapped and sent to the inmates' families in time for Christmas.

Faced with an unblinking camera and their own criminal pasts, some Botetourt inmates wept Monday as they promised to be

better fathers, husbands and sons in the future.

Carolyn LeCroy, who has been organizing the holiday greetings program for the past five years, said it's about more than just putting another gift under the tree. Inmates with strong family connections are less likely to re-offend, she said. And with studies also showing that children of incarcerated parents are six times more likely to wind up in prison themselves, there's a lot at stake here.

"It is extremely important that we maintain a bond with the children," LeCroy said. "The children are the silent victims of their parents' crimes."

LeCroy knows these things — as a mother and an ex-inmate. Although LeCroy said her two sons visited regularly and supported her during the 14 months she spent in prison on a marijuana charge, she saw many inmates who were not so lucky.

"If I had the money, I would do everything," LeCroy said.

LeCroy's reward is the feedback. Some parents tell her about toddlers who kiss the television screen when they first see their mother or father. Others have told her about children who refuse to go to bed at night before watching the video again, for the umpteenth time.

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IN THE WORLD



A typhoon victim is helped off a rescue helicopter by Red Cross personnel at the Villamor Air Base in Manila, Philippines, on Thursday. The typhoons last week killed at least 842 people, and more than 750 are still missing.

4 saved from collapsed building in Philippines

BY PAT ROQUE
The Associated Press

REAL, Philippines — Rescuers pulled four survivors Thursday from a building that collapsed in mudslides 10 days ago, while the death toll from devastating storms in the Philippines' northeast rose to 842. More than 400 people are missing.

The four survived by drinking "any kind of liquid that dripped" through the rubble under which they were buried, said Maria Tamares, 49, who was rescued along with her 3-year-old granddaughter and two 14-year-old boys in Real, about 40 miles east of Manila.

Tamares said a male relative died beside her, pleading for water, on the third day.

As rescue crews continued to

pick their way through debris, the Office of Civil Defense raised the number of confirmed deaths from the storms by 102 to 842.

It said 751 people were still missing.

"We felt like we were entombed between heaven and earth," Tamares said. "There was nothing but darkness. I thought our time had come."

Tamares and the others had apparently been trapped in the kitchen of a two-story building that was buried under piles of mud Nov. 29, when the worst of two back-to-back storms battered the region.

"We will continue our recovery efforts until in our judgment those that we have to recover have all been recovered," said the military's Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Efrén Abu.

Canada's Supreme Court says gay marriage legal

Legislature may pass national law early next year allowing act

BY BETH DUFF-BROWN

The Associated Press

TORONTO — In a landmark opinion, Canada's Supreme Court said Thursday that proposed legislation allowing gay marriage is constitutional, but the government cannot force religious officials to perform unions against their beliefs.

The Liberal government had sought the court's opinion, which is strictly advisory, as the House of Commons determines whether to legalize gay marriage at a federal level. Judges in six provinces and one territory have already allowed same-sex marriage.

Canada would join Belgium and the Netherlands in allowing gay marriage if the law is passed.

"Several centuries ago, it would have been understood that marriage be available only to opposite-sex couples," the court said in its opinion. "The recognition of same-sex marriage in several Canadian jurisdictions as well as two European countries belies the assertion that the same is true today."

The legislation is expected to be introduced early next year.

The general conservatives and even some liberal lawmakers were expected to wage a bitter battle



Gay men in a Calgary bar listen Thursday to the Supreme Court of Canada announcing its decision on same-sex marriage. Canada's top court said Ottawa has the authority to redefine marriage to include same-sex couples.

to limit marriage to heterosexuals.

The gay marriage law needs the backing of at least 155 legislators in the 308-seat House of Commons to pass. It has the backing of the 38 Liberal Cabinet members and is believed to be supported by nearly all legislators in the Bloc Québécois and

New Democrat parties, which have 54 and 19 seats.

Supporters now need support from about half the 95 Liberal backbenchers. However, there is some dissent in the ranks.

"I do personally have a problem with redefining marriage and I'm sure some of my colleagues do as well," said Liberal lawmaker Roy Cullen.

Public opinion in Canada is evenly divided on the matter, and both sides are preparing for the next phase of the battle.

"This is a victory for Canadian values," said Alexander Munster of Canadians for Equal Marriage.

Gordon Young, pastor of the First Assembly of God Church in St. John's, Newfoundland, was highly disappointed.

"It's a sad day for our country," Young told CBC television news.

"God is in the DNA of this nation. We believe that changing the definition of marriage is changing the divine institution that God put in place for the order of our society."

IRA agrees to disarmament, but not photos

The Associated Press

BELFAST, Northern Ireland

The Irish Republican Army declared for the first time Thursday that it's willing to get rid of its entire weapons stockpile within weeks — but it won't allow anybody to photograph the disarmament.

The outlawed IRA made its new offer of speedy disarmament a day after the British and Irish governments published a detailed plan designed to revive a Catholic-Protestant administration, the intended cornerstone of the province's Good Friday peace accord of 1998.

The two diametrically opposed

forces that would have to share power — the British Protestants of the Democratic Unionist Party and the Irish Catholics of Sinn Féin, the IRA-linked party — agree they are close to a historic pact.

But just as the IRA's longtime refusal to disarm has wrecked previous power-sharing pacts, its refusal to permit photos of its disarmament has become the deal-breaker this time.

The IRA said Democratic Unionist leader Ian Paisley "demanded that our contribution be photographed, and reduced to an act of humiliation. This was never possible." But the Democratic Unionists declared its readiness

for a protracted standoff if the IRA doesn't budge on permitting photos.

All sides agreed Thursday that the IRA's latest commitments represent a stunning advance from 1997, when the underground organization halted its 27-year campaign against British rule.

The IRA will allow two clergymen — one a Catholic priest approved by Sinn Féin, the other a Protestant nominated by the Democratic Unionists — to act as independent observers, another new commitment.

The IRA also promised to demands for the group to fade away in a power-sharing deal.

Afghanistan's war on drugs

KABUL, Afghanistan — President Hamid Karzai on Thursday declared a "holy war" on Afghanistan's runaway narcotics industry, calling for international aid to counter a threat he said was more dangerous than any his country faced in more than 20 years of war.

Karzai's speech opened a conference on a U.S.-sponsored plan to crack down on a trade that supplies most of the world's heroin, and risks turning Afghanistan into a narco-state.

Karzai also suggested Taliban militants were funding their insurgency with drug

profits.

Marines arrive at consulate

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia — A team of U.S. Marines has arrived in this Red Sea port to assist in security at a U.S. Consulate that came under attack this week by Islamic militants, an American Embassy official said Thursday.

Such teams typically include 50 Marines and are expert in providing security and conducting raids in urban areas, Marine officials in the United States have said. The teams often are deployed in the aftermath of a terrorist attack.

Earthquakes in Mexico

MEXICO CITY — Eight moderate earthquakes shook southern Mexico late Tuesday and early Wednesday but there were no reports of damage or injury.

Mexico's National Seismological Service said the magnitude of the quakes ranged between 3.8 and 4.2 — strong enough to cause moderate damage in rare circumstances, though the large majority cause no harm.

Sloppy security in England

LONDON — Security agents' apparently

careless habits are getting embarrassing for the British government.

Someone on a London street picked up a lost dossier full of secret information about Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's whereabouts and plans for protecting the important ally during his visit to Britain last week, London's Metropolitan Police said.

Police said Wednesday they were investigating how the file ended up on the street, where they said a member of the public had found it and turned it in to a national newspaper, which gave the papers to police on Monday.

From The Associated Press

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Alamo letter auction

TX SAN ANTONIO — A copy of the letter written by the Texas commander at the battle of the Alamo pleading for backup and pledging "victory or death" was auctioned for \$299,200.

The letter from William Barret Travis, one of only four known copies, was sold along with another letter that later announced the defenders had lost the March 1836 battle, said Lauren Gioia, a spokeswoman for Sorbey's, the second letter was auctioned for \$78,000.

Both letters were removed from a private collection being auctioned in June when a retired dealer of historic Texas items questioned whether they rightfully belonged to the Texas State Library.

Volunteer scam artist

PA PHILADELPHIA — A Red Cross employee and two other people were accused of stealing the identities of about 40 blood donors and using the information to obtain about \$268,000 in cash and merchandise.

In 2002 and 2003, Red Cross district clerk Diane Bales, 33, of Collingswood, N.J., fished names, addresses, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, telephone numbers and places of employment from the computer records of people who had participated in corporate blood drives in Philadelphia, U.S. Attorney Patrick Meehan said.

Harold J. McCoy III, 33, and Karynn R. Long, 36, of Dayton, Ohio, then used the information to obtain credit, cash counterfeit checks and get bank loans, Meehan said.

Justice — 20 years late

NC WINSTON-SALEM — A man will plead guilty to killing a woman in 1984, a crime that wrongly sent another man to prison for 18 years, his attorney said. Willard E. Brown, 44, will plead guilty to the murder, rape and kidnapping of Deborah Sykes in exchange for one life sentence. The plea agreement, announced by public defender Pete Clay, allows Brown to avoid the possibility of a death sentence.

Brown will also plead guilty to a robbery charge and receive a sentence of 10 years, to be served in addition to the life sentence. A 10-year-old state law abolished parole in such murder cases.

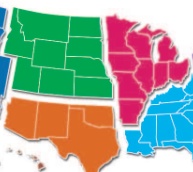
But Brown will be eligible for parole under sentencing laws in place at the time of Sykes' murder.

Elephant moving day

MI DETROIT — Winky and Wanda, two aging, arthritic elephants, will spend their retirement in the foothills of California's Sierra Nevada mountains, away from the cramped, cold Detroit Zoo.

After months of wrangling, Detroit Zoo director Roy Kan reached an agreement with two other zoos and an accreditation group to send Winky and Wanda to California's Performing Animal Welfare Society sanctuary for a milder climate and more space.

Wanda, 46, has arthritis and 51-year-old Winky has foot problems. Both have surpassed the av-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

erage 45-year life expectancy for Asian elephants in captivity in North America.

Party-house lawsuit

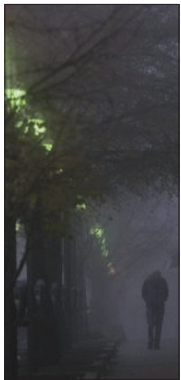
CA BERKELEY — First they flung chunks of a cooked pig at passing cars. Then another resident of the student housing co-op beheaded a chicken with garden shears, said shocked neighbors.

And a few months back, a guy on the rooftop deck was heard yelling, "Where's the heroin?" Le Chateau is the University of California's own Animal House, its neighbors say, and they want a court to force the landlord to pay them damages for their years of suffering through raucous naked pool parties, nighttime bongo drumming and piles of rat-friendly garbage.

Twenty-one people are asking for a total of \$105,000 in small-claims court — \$5,000 each — arguing that the communal complex of three buildings has been a public nuisance since the University Students Cooperative Association bought it in 1977.

Religious float banned

CO DENVER — An attorney has offered to explore a lawsuit on behalf of a pastor whose church was barred from entering a



Misty walk

A pedestrian walks out of the fog along a sidewalk in downtown Lawrence, Kan.

Christmas float in Denver's Parade of Lights.

"If he has an interest in carrying it to the next level, we're ready," said Mike Norton, lawyer for the Alliance Defense Fund, which takes on religious liberty cases primarily for Christian clients.

Morrison wanted to enter a float featuring multicultural Christian themes and a Merry Christmas message. Parade officials told a representative from Morrison's church, the 4,000-member Faith Bible Chapel, that religious messages aren't allowed because they might offend others.

Teens run over by SUV

FL ST. AUGUSTINE — A woman ran over two teenage brothers after they accidentally hit her sport utility vehicle with the golf ball they were bouncing in a parking lot, officials said, leaving one of the boys with life-threatening injuries.

Isiah Grayer, 14, and his 16-year-old twin stepbrothers, Justin and Jamel Marshman, were bouncing the golf ball in a shopping center parking lot when it went astray and struck a sport utility vehicle driven by Kathy Feaganes August 47, St. Johns County sheriff's Deputy Grech Suchy said.

Suchy said no damage was done, and the boys apologized and began to walk away. Allen started to drive away, but suddenly made a U-turn, ran over a median and struck Grayer and Justin Marshman before knocking over a light pole, Suchy said.

She then drove after Jamel Marshman, crossing two medians and striking a utility box before her SUV stopped in a ditch, Suchy said. The boy ran away and was not struck.

A judge ordered Allen held without bail on three counts of attempted murder.

Campus security review

IA Iowa City — The University of Iowa is reviewing campus security measures in light of recent vandalism at a campus laboratory. A new group has been formed to review how the university can better account for all keywords issued. The university temporarily closed Seshore Hall last month after vandals removed animals and spilled chemicals in a psychology lab.

The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the attack.

Brother gets his thanks

NM ALBUQUERQUE — When University of New Mexico Hospital workers didn't let 8-year-old Christina Martinez visit her wounded brother, she wouldn't allow it.

"I told them, 'He saved my life, and I want to see him,'" she said of her visit to the hospital — and finally to her brother's bedside Sunday.

"I just said to him, 'Thank you for saving me and I love you,'" Christina said.

Angel Martinez, 10, was mauled by a Rottweiler over the weekend at a park after he pushed the dog off Christina. He was in satisfactory condition at the hospital.



Trying to keep balance

Curtis Johnson, 13, of Cleveland, battles a strong gust of wind as he walks by the fallen Christmas tree on Public Square in Cleveland. The 40-foot tree snapped off about 5 feet up on the trunk because of winds up to 55 mph.



Can't take it any longer

Bradley Kozusko, left, Emily Hutto, center, and Marissa Pecora, right, led their classmates during the Santa Parade in St. Petersburg, Fla. Hutto passed to scratch her face, saying that her costume was itchy.

Can you fly?

Brianna Stockstill, 2, pets Star, a female reindeer, at the Deer Farm and Exotic Petting Zoo in Sevierville, Tenn.



Plunging for charity Former Miss Nebraska Krista Knicey-Anderson, left, Miss Douglas County Mary Boschert, center, and Miss Nebraska Brook Matthews sprint to get out of Lake Zorinsky after taking part in the Polar Bear Plunge. The annual event is a fundraiser for the Special Olympics.



Being cute is a rough job Mookie the Bassett hound, right, lets out a long yawn as he and his friends have their picture taken with Santa in El Paso, Texas.



Hang on cowboy!

Cory Melton, of Keithville, La., rides Paleface in the first performance of bull riding at the National Finals Rodeo, at the Thomas & Mack arena in Las Vegas.



Graceful ballerinas

at School of Dance in Flint Twp., Mich.

Dancers perform "Waltz of the Snowflakes" from "The Nutcracker" at Breakfast with Santa, hosted by the Young People's Ballet Theatre at Paav-

Large settlement

CA SAN FRANCISCO — An anti-war protester who sued San Francisco after a police officer broke her arm with a baton strike during a demonstration would get one of the city's largest-ever payouts in a police case, under an \$835,000 deal that the Police Commission has approved.

The settlement was reached in a federal lawsuit filed by Linda Vaccarezza, 39, who claimed her civil rights were violated when Police Officer Anthony Nelson clubbed her during the street protests that swept through downtown March 20, 2002, the day after U.S.-led forces invaded Iraq.

Vaccarezza suffered a broken forearm during the incident, which another protester recorded on videotape.

Man gets life in prison

NY RIVERHEAD — A Long Island man was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison for killing his girlfriend's 4-year-old son because the boy urinated in his truck.

Shawn Clark, 38, was sentenced after a jury found him guilty last month of second degree murder for the Feb. 1, 2003, beating death of Isaac Silver.

The Suffolk District Attorney's office said Clark was angry that he had to bring the boy along on a date with his girlfriend, Tabitha Clark, 25. The boy urinated in his truck on the date.

Prosecutors said Shawn Clark punched the boy in the stomach after the three returned home from a trip to Brooklyn. The next day, the boy began throwing up and stopped breathing.

Teacher faces jail time

WV CHARLESTON — Susanna Robinson, a sixth-grade teacher in Monroe County, faces a fine of up to \$1,000 and 90 days in jail because she propped open her classroom door with a rubber doorstop.

An assistant fire marshal issued the state fire code violation citation and confiscated the doorstop during a visit to Mountain View Elementary and Middle School in Union. No court date has been set.

Possible market move

OH CINCINNATI — Some tenants of Ohio's oldest municipal market say they'll consider moving across the Ohio River into Kentucky because of rising rent and a requirement to open on Sundays.

Vendors at Findlay Market face a Dec. 17 deadline to sign leases for 2005.

The market says the move to mandatory Sunday hours reflects how people shop today.

Teen gets probation

FL MARCO ISLAND — Accused as the ringleader of a planned violent attack on his high school, a 16-year-old boy received probation after apologizing for what he described as a joke among friends.

Circuit Judge William Blackwell agreed to withhold a conviction for Russell Mescal on the misdemeanor charge to which he pleaded no contest in October, disruption of a school function at Lely High

School.

The sheriff's office began investigating after a fourth-grader alerted an elementary school youth relations deputy that he had overheard his sister talk about several older boys making "a blood pact" and talking about killing people, court records show.

Workers may strike

MA LAWRENCE — Seven hundred workers at Malden Mills Industries could go on strike after the mill's largest union voted 231-198 to reject the company's final three-year contract offer.

The textiles company gained national renown in 1995 when the owner decided to keep workers on the payroll after a fire destroyed the company's main factory.

Davis returns to law

CA LOS ANGELES — Former Gov. Gray Davis, recalled by California voters a year ago, has returned to law practices as attorney with Loeb & Loeb in Los Angeles.

Davis, 61, will work in the 20-lawyer firm's corporate group and will assist its partners in "developing business relationships," said Loeb & Loeb co-chairman John Frankenheimer.

Objection over fire

CO ESTES PARK — City Trustee David Habecker may lose his seat in a recall election for sitting silently during the Pledge of Allegiance.

Habecker, a former president of the Lion's Club and a town trustee for 12 years, said he objects to the words "under God."

The pledge, written in the 1892, didn't include those words. They were added in 1954 during Sen. Joe McCarthy's pursuit of communists, Habecker said.

He said he is basing his stand on Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, which says no religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office.

Opponents organized a recall election drive and an election date will be set soon.

Tough as steel

FL ST. PETERSBURG — A hand-dipped, hand-dipped raspberry trifles in chocolate inside a new shop as seven men heaved and tugged at the 10,000-pound Mosler safe sitting nearby.

It had taken four hours and snapped two pieces of metal equipment just to move the massive green safe 15 feet to the store entrance.

Built by the company whose safes withstood the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the safe almost rolled into the street at one point.

But the men from several safe-cracking companies accomplished what many had failed to do over the years: They got the Mosler safe out the front door for the first time in decades.

It has been a fixture in the building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, since about the 1920s or early 1930s.

Mosler Safe Co. of Hamilton, Ohio, folded several years ago. It also is known as the company that built vaults that hold gold at Fort Knox.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Living the Lyric

Alison Krauss feels kinship with music after 20 years of bluegrass

BY JOHN GEROME
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — For many entertainers, growing older is a liability and age is best kept a secret.

Not for Alison Krauss.

The 33-year-old says the years help deepen the well she draws from to sing about other people's lives.

"I think the older I get, the more I'm able to relate to the songs I'm singing," she says. "I've been doing this since I was a teenager, and I had a very nice childhood. (But) you're not going to sound like you've lived much if you haven't."

Last month, she and her bluegrass band Union Station released their latest album, "Lonely Runs Both Ways."

Krauss describes it as their most emotional work yet, with songs that explore transition ("Goodbye Is All We Have"), lost love and loneliness ("Borderline"), and spirituality ("A Living Prayer").

Her somber, breathy vocals come across like a gray November day on the Gillian Welch/David Rawlings composition "Wouldn't Be So Bad" and on other ballads such as "Doesn't Have to Be This Way" and "If I Didn't Know Any Better."

The album's title is taken from the lyrics to "Borderline," and it sets the tone: "So you're on your own / Looking down the road / That you got by one name / And you don't need the signs / To keep lonely still runs both ways."

Krauss' band keeps things from getting too morose. There's the uptempo Jerry Douglas-penned instrumental "Unionhouse Branch" and Dan Tyminski's twangy delivery on covers of Woody Guthrie's "Pastures of Plenty" and Del McCoury's "Rain, Rain Go Away."

Ron Block sings on the self-penned "I Don't Have This Way."

Four of the 15 songs were written by Krauss' friend Robert Lee Castleman, a

former truck driver whose "The Lucky One," "Let Me Touch You for Awhile," and "Forget About It" were previously popularized by Krauss.

"They all sound like classics but they don't sound like anything else, which doesn't make any sense," Krauss said of Castleman's work. "But the next time the chorus comes around you know it. And you think you've known it your whole life."

Krauss spoke at her management office while her 5-year-old son, Sam, played in the next room. She was dressed casually in denim overalls and a T-shirt with her hair pulled up and wearing little makeup — more like a busy mom than a superstar singer who's won more Grammys than any female artist (17, one more than Aretha Franklin).

"He goes with me everywhere, and that's awesome," she says of Sam. "I thought 'Oh my God, how lucky I am that I can do that.'"

Krauss grew up a fan of classic rock bands like AC/DC and Aerosmith in Champaign, Ill., about 140 miles south of Chicago, and began playing violin at her mother's suggestion.

"My mom and dad wanted to put my brother and I in everything — art classes, sports. One of the things we were going to do is take an instrument for five years, and she chose the violin for me because my brother had the piano already. They bought me a book, and I listened to records. I made a tape of whatever song I wanted to learn and would play it like 35 times."

She soon was winning ribbons and trophies at bluegrass fiddle contests. She began performing in a bluegrass group when she was only 12, and by 16 released her first album, "Too Late to Cry."

As well as anyone, Union Station has managed to stay true to its bluegrass roots while appealing to country and even pop listeners.

They've recorded the traditional "Down to the River to Pray" and Ralph Stanley's "Heaven's Bright Shore" as well as Bad



Bluegrass musician Alison Krauss performs on the fiddle with her band Union Station at the FleetBoston Pavilion in Boston in this May 31 photo.

Company's "Oh, Atlanta" and the Allman Brothers' "Midnight Rider."

In the process, they've sold 7 million albums — an extraordinary number for a bluegrass band.

"They've turned a lot of people on to the music and caused a lot of people to want to go out and learn how to play," said Dan Hays, executive director of the International Bluegrass Music Association.

Of their crossover appeal, Hays said: "I don't think they're purposely trying to make music to appeal to a certain audience. I think they're just making the best music they know how to make and the music that's in

their hearts. The music is what's most important to them. If it goes platinum, they're all the happier for it, but it's not their motivation."

While purists may scoff at the band's instrumentation, choice of material or their mass commercial success, Krauss doesn't worry.

"It's not that I don't think, 'Oh we're going to get nailed for that one,' because I think about that, too," she says. "But the people that I want to impress are those guys I play with every night. If they like the kind of tunes I may bring to the table — and I know Ron (Block) feels the same way — if they like it, we're OK."

Red carpet treatment for Jones Reynolds

There's just no keeping Star Jones Reynolds off Hollywood's red carpets.

Jones Reynolds will chat with nominees and guests as they arrive at the Beverly Hilton when she hosts E! Entertainment Television's two-hour "Live From the Red Carpet: The 2005 Golden Globe Awards" on Jan. 16.

"I have watched (the show) for years as a fan," she said in a statement Tuesday. "To be able to participate in all the fun and excitement now as the host is a dream come true."

Jones Reynolds, who has a daytime gig as a co-host of ABC's "The View," first stepped on the carpet for E! in September at the Emmy Awards.

She replaced Joan and Melissa Rivers after the mother-daughter duo took their celebrity fashion commentary to the TV Guide Channel in July.

Jones Reynolds married banker Al Reynolds in a star-studded Park Avenue ceremony in New York last month.



Jones Reynolds

Roberts richest of the rich

Julia Roberts is a mommy with big money.

The 37-year-old actress, who recently gave birth to twins, tops The Hollywood Reporter's annual list of the highest-paid actresses. Her paycheck per film? \$20 million.

"Charlie's Angels" star Cameron Diaz, also with a \$20 million price tag, ranked second because her face was missing from the big screen this year (though her voice was featured in the animated "Shrek 2").

Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon and Drew Barrymore, worth \$15 million each, filled the top five, followed by Halle Berry (\$14 million), Sandra Bullock and Angelina Jolie (both earning \$12 million to \$15 million per film), and Renee Zellweger and Jennifer Lopez (\$12 million each).

The Women in Entertainment issue also includes a paycheck tally of "Five Breakout Performers." Kirsten Dunst is No. 1 at \$8 million, followed by Lindsay Lohan (\$7.5 million), Jessica Alba (\$3 million), Mandy Moore (\$3 million)



Roberts

and Sarah Michelle Gellar (\$2 million).

Casualties in 'War of the Worlds'

A crew that was filming scenes for Steven Spielberg's "War of the Worlds," based on H.G. Wells' novel about an invasion from outer space, lost a few extras in the Connecticut River last weekend.

Two adult-size mannequins got free and drifted south down the river during filming on the riverbank in Windsor, Conn., said Windsor police Lt. Shannon Haynes.

Despite a search by the movie production's water safety crew, the mannequins weren't recovered, and other police departments along the river front were alerted.

"We just wanted them to know that if they got any calls about bodies floating in the river," Haynes said Monday. "But we never heard anything about them being found."

Spielberg and star Tom Cruise shot sequences across the state last week, including several scenes at an old chemical plant in Naugatuck.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Spielberg

YOUR MONEY

Volvo is good gamble for power, performance

Dear Tom and Ray: I know you guys don't like big SUVs, so you'll be glad to hear that we are downsizing from an SUV to a wagon. We're having trouble finding a wagon we like. We want something sporty, with some power. Consumer Reports recommends the Volvo wagon only. It is neither sporty nor powerful, and it looks like a box on four wheels. We like the Audi wagon, with its 250 horsepower and twin turbos, but Consumer Reports won't recommend it due to its lack of reliability. We haven't driven the Mercedes wagon yet, but it is low on horsepower and high on price. What would you recommend?

— Tom
RAY: What's with the power obsession, Tom? You know, there are other ways to combat hair loss — minoxidil, for example.

TOM: If you don't like the looks of the Volvo, that's fine. But the V70 wagon has four optional engines, ranging from 168 to 300 horsepower. What's not powerful about that?

RAY: And actually, we find the 2.5-liter 5-cylinder turbo engine that makes 208 horsepower to be just right for that car.

TOM: Getting more power than you need usually just adds weight to the car, wastes your gas money and encourages you to drive like a knucklehead and wreck your car around a tree. And I guess if you're going to drive like a knucklehead and wrap yourself around a tree, you might want to take an

other look at something nice and safe — like that Volvo, Tom.

RAY: Fortunately, for recovering SUV drivers, there are lots of great wagons and sport wagons on the road now. But if the Volvo is too boring-looking for you and the Mercedes wagon is too expensive, you're a perfect candidate for a Dodge

Magnum — IF you can convince your wife to be seen in it.

TOM: Yeah. It does tend to drip testosterone, if you know what I mean. Especially the red ones. So show her a nice, subdued silver one.

RAY: But it's a pretty nice car. It's got a chassis based on the previous-generation Mercedes E-class (Mercedes and Chrysler are part of the same company now). It's got a V-6 engine, comfortable and available with all-wheel drive.

TOM: Reliability is unknown, so we can't give you any assurance there. But the price is right. With all-wheel drive and a 250-horsepower V-6 engine (like the one you wanted in the Audi), the Magnum starts at about \$28 grand. So try it with the 3.5-liter V-6 engine, Tom. I think you'll find it's everything you need. And then you can spend the savings on a week at the Skip Barber Racing School, or wrap HIS cars around a tree next to the track, where aggressive driving belongs.

Got a question about cars? Write to us at Dear Tom and Ray, c/o Stripes, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk section of cars.com or the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features Syndicate Inc.

By ALBERT B. CRENSHAW

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON With just two weeks left in 2004, this is the time for any last-minute tax planning you want to do.

Last calls of this sort have taken on a new dimension recently because a growing number of taxpayers, even fairly ordinary, middle-income ones, are being caught up in the alternative minimum tax. And while it's difficult to escape the AMT, there may be a few things you can do.

By now, most people have at least heard of the AMT, but those who still think of it as what it was intended to be — a special tax to make sure rich people pay at least something to the government — are badly out of date.

Because of the AMT's structure, and Congress' unwillingness to change it, the tax's impact has been creeping steadily down the income scale. Lawmakers did extend the AMT's reliance on inflation this fall, but nonetheless millions of Americans will have to pay the tax this year, and many more will be forced to do calculations to see whether they have to pay it.

Upper-middle-income taxpayers are seeing an increasing number of middle-income ones who live in high-tax jurisdictions and/or who have large families or certain kinds of deductions are likely to be caught up in it.

"The AMT has morphed into a stealth tax that traps taxpayers of more modest means," says Laurie Asch, senior tax analyst with RIA, a firm that provides information and software to tax professionals.

Essentially the AMT works this way: First you do your taxes the regular way.

Then you do the AMT. That involves taking your regular taxable income, adding back in certain deductions that are not allowed under the AMT, and then applying a large "exemption amount" — really a sort of standard deduction — to find your AMT taxable income.

Then you apply special AMT tax rates — 26 percent up to \$175,000 and 28 percent above that — and see what you owe. You then compare that to your regular tax and pay whichever is higher.

This means, as you can see, that the lower your regular tax, the more likely you are to be hit by the AMT.

Over the years, regular tax rates have been cut, and brackets and many other features have been indexed for inflation. But such adjustments have not been applied to the AMT. Thus, the AMT's definition of "taxable income" steadily outpaces more taxpayers.

Congress did pass a temporary boost in the exemption amount — it's now \$58,000 for married couples filing jointly, \$40,250 for singles and \$29,000 for married filing separately — and this fall lawmakers extended that through next year. But since the exemption phases out as income levels increase, it doesn't help higher-income families very much.

Because of differences between the regular tax and the AMT — such as deductions that are allowed in the former and not in the latter — strategies that lower regular tax can be counterproductive because they trigger AMT. That, of course, was the original point of the AMT, but it wasn't supposed to whack garden-variety taxpayers.

As a result, for taxpayers at the top of the "year-end tax planning can be like playing two games of chess simultaneously," Asch said.

It's difficult to know for sure whether you will have to pay the AMT without actually doing regular and AMT calculations. However, there are certain income and deduction items that many people have that can be triggers for the AMT.

■ Home mortgage interest. Did you refinance this year? Under the regular tax, interest on up to \$100,000 of refinanced mortgage debt is deductible, even if you didn't put the money into the house. But it's not deductible for AMT unless it did go for home improvement.

■ Standard deduction and personal exemptions. These reduce regular taxable income, but they must be added back when you figure your AMT income. This feature is one that can catch big families, since there's a personal exemption for each child, especially if they have other regular deductions that are not allowed for AMT.

■ State and local taxes. Under the regular tax, taxpayers have the option of deducting either state and local income taxes or state and local sales taxes, at least when figuring regular taxable income tax. This was meant mainly as a favor for residents of states with no income tax, but it raises the possibility that such folks, after they happily claim their new deduction on their regular returns, will get a nasty AMT surprise.

■ Incentive stock options. Under regular rules, no tax is triggered by the exercise of these options. Regular tax law allows only when you sell the underlying shares. However, you are AMT-taxable on the difference between the price at which the option allows you to buy the stock and the current market value of the stock. So anyone who exercised such options this year needs to watch out for the AMT.

■ Charitable contributions. If you're a taxpayer at the top of the "year-end tax planning can be like playing two games of chess simultaneously," Asch said.

As a result, for taxpayers at the top of the "year-end tax planning can be like playing two games of chess simultaneously," Asch said.

It also has sound advice about saving, investing and Social Security.

Place your order at: www.my-money.gov. Financial adviser, economist and security analyst Nancy Dunnan is the author of "How to Invest \$25,000," she writes a weekly column for theonlineinvestor.com

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
	52-week High	Low	Net Chg	% YTD 52-wk High
Dow Jones Industrial	10,353	10,106	+48	+1.1
Dow Jones Transportation	3,748.05	2,743.46	+40	+2.85
Dow Jones Utilities	152.29	152.47	+0.18	+0.12
NASDAQ Composite	7,108.81	6,687.23	+155	+2.2
NYSE Composite	1,471.41	1,385.38	+22	+1.6
S&P 500	1,250.82	1,150.82	+14	+1.1
S&P 500 MidCap	1,337.46	1,053.41	+50	+4.8
S&P 500 SmallCap	546.29	442.29	+10	+2.3
Russell 2000	944.84	515.90	+39	+7.6
Dow Jones World	11,384.08	10,344.15	+100	+1.0

NYSE				
	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Net Chg	Vol	% YTD 52-wk High
Alcoa	688.99	1.71	+20	+0.25
Amgen	1,012.12	3.16	+10	+1.0
Apple	271.03	21.30	+10	+3.7
Boeing	269.02	1.02	+10	+3.7
General Electric	26.11	0.48	+10	+3.7
Microsoft	26.11	0.48	+10	+3.7
Oracle	12.89	0.48	+10	+3.7
Yahoo!	12.89	0.48	+10	+3.7
Amazon.com	14.89	0.71	+10	+3.7
Google	14.89	0.71	+10	+3.7

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EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		\$1 =
British pound		\$1.98
Japanese yen (Dec. 10)		109.00
South Korean won (Dec. 9)		1,027.00
Commercial rates		\$1 =
Bahrain (Dinar)		0.37698
British pound		0.51934
Canadian dollar		0.67280
Denmark (krone)		0.527
Euro (euro)		0.76666
French franc (Franc)		166.338
Hong Kong (Dollar)		0.775
Hungary (Forint)		134.36
Indian Rupee		47.75
Israel (Shekel)		4.3271
Japanese Yen		109.00
Kuwait (Dinar)		0.26490
Norwegian Krone		4.66
Philippines (Peso)		56.50
Saudi Arabian (Riyal)		3.75
South Korea (Won)		1,027.00
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PRECIOUS METALS

London close		\$1 =
Gold		\$444.66
Silver		\$6.62

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Silver		\$6.62

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Silver		\$6.62

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Cents and Sensibility

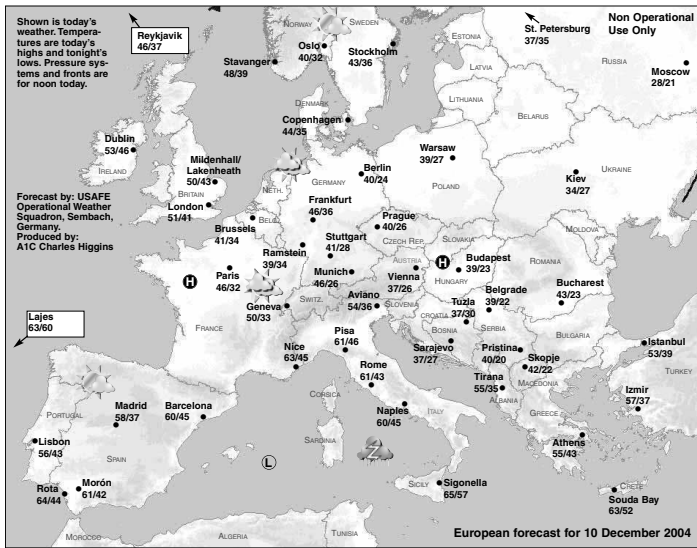
Money tip of the day	
Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	1.50
3-month bill	2.24
30-year bond	5.15
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America	

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EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with pockets of dense fog in the morning. Highs in the low 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with fog in the morning. Highs in the low 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with fog throughout the day. Highs in the upper 30s.

France: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with pockets of fog in the morning. Highs in the mid 40s in the north, to lower 60s in the south.

Northern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with pockets of fog in the morning. Highs in the low to mid 40s.

Southern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with pockets of fog in the morning. Highs in the upper 30s to mid 40s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with pockets of fog in the morning. Highs in the mid 50s.

Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 50s to low 60s.

Kosovo: Partly to mostly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the low 40s.

Norway: Partly cloudy becoming mostly cloudy with rain/snow overnight. Highs in the 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy with pockets of fog in the morning and isolated rain showers along the southern coast. Highs in the upper 50s to mid 60s.

Turkey: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 50s to low 60s.



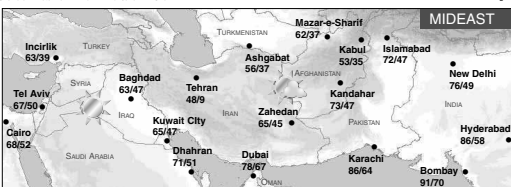
AFRICA

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	78	60	Mogadishu	85	77
Dakar	82	71	Nairobi	78	61
Freetown	89	75	Rabat	63	46
Antananarivo	87	73	Tripoli	68	46

Cape Town	78	65	Mogadishu	85	77
Dakar	82	71	Nairobi	78	61
Freetown	89	75	Rabat	63	46
Kinshasa	87	73	Tripoli	68	46

THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	42	31	Manila	87	77
Bahrain	71	57	Mexico City	73	45
Beijing	46	26	Montreal	32	24
Beirut	66	57	Riyadh	77	54
Bermuda	74	66	Rio de Jan	85	74
Caracas	88	74	Seoul	49	29
Helsinki	40	25	Sofia	41	20
Hong Kong	75	63	Sydney	80	68
Lisbon	56	51	Tokyo	61	50



For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at <https://ows.sembach.af.mil> or <https://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

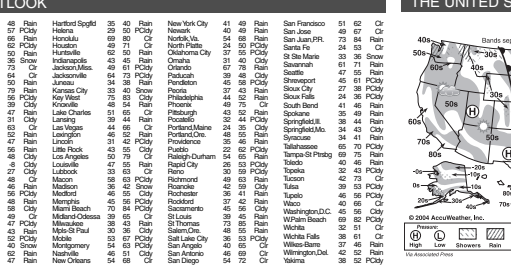
	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:58am	6:57am
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	8:13am	8:14am
Sunset (Baghdad)	4:56pm	4:56pm
Sunset (Frankfurt)	4:24pm	4:23pm

New moon 12 Dec, First 18 Dec, Full moon 26 Dec, Last 03 Jan

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK				
	HI	LO	Outk	
Alabama	39	26	PCity	Cleveland
Alaska	42	31	Rain	Colorado Springs
Arizona	42	31	PCity	Colorado, D.C.
Arkansas	37	24	PCity	Colorado, Ga.
California	39	26	PCity	Colorado, N.C.
Colorado	39	26	PCity	Connecticut
Connecticut	39	26	PCity	Corpus Christi
Delaware	39	26	PCity	Dallas
District of Columbia	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Florida	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Georgia	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Hawaii	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Idaho	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Illinois	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Indiana	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Iowa	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Kansas	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Kentucky	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Louisiana	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Maine	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Maryland	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Massachusetts	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Michigan	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Minnesota	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Mississippi	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Missouri	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Montana	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Nebraska	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Nevada	39	26	PCity	Dayton
New Hampshire	39	26	PCity	Dayton
New Jersey	39	26	PCity	Dayton
New Mexico	39	26	PCity	Dayton
New York	39	26	PCity	Dayton
North Carolina	39	26	PCity	Dayton
North Dakota	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Ohio	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Oklahoma	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Oregon	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Pennsylvania	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Rhode Island	39	26	PCity	Dayton
South Carolina	39	26	PCity	Dayton
South Dakota	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Tennessee	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Texas	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Vermont	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Virginia	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Washington	39	26	PCity	Dayton
West Virginia	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Wisconsin	39	26	PCity	Dayton
Wyoming	39	26	PCity	Dayton

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCS**?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS & STRIPES
Your HomeTown Newspaper

Horoscope

This morning, the moon joins the sun's party in Sagittarius, and energies line up to prepare for tomorrow's compelling new moon. Getting the most of this powerful transit requires introspection and personal time. Figure out the area in your life you most like to improve, and be ready to take your first action to that end tomorrow.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 10). You'll succeed where others have failed! Ingenuity takes you into new territories this year. Leap into a romance this month — you're especially compatible with Libra and Taurus. Couples embark on a joint mission that isn't easy, but the gold at the end is well worth the adventure. Education gives you a new way to make money this spring.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are moving from a grandiose vision to the implementation of specific objectives. Roll up your sleeves — you're in for some fun! Beware of someone who gives a compliment and asks for a favor at the same time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Maybe your ambitions are veering away from your original idea, but who's to say your new aims won't be more fun to accomplish anyhow? Be willing to see yourself as someone with talents the world has yet to discover.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you've got the work to make things happen, they happen all right. So instead of focusing on doing everything yourself, get out there and do what you do best — schmooze! Be sure to collect contact information on new people.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your friends are your wealth. You may think you don't have time to make any more, but the stars disagree and send new prospects your way. Your habit of giving people more than they expect pays off big time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are cheeky, experimental, zany to the extreme. You'll either be lauded as a

genius or wind up in somebody's "Fashion Don't" file. Either way, your attitude attracts the best and the brightest to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Get rid of the worn-out things in your life — clothes, household items and emotional baggage. You're anything but sentimental now, so it's the ideal day to purge. Just make sure the stuff is nowhere you can go retrieve it tomorrow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Calls come from people who are in the know about the latest research, the way you're supposed to be doing your job, the technology you're not up on, but it's all a distraction. You've got a handle on things. Just concentrate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your social status is on the rise, and so is your confidence. The nervous energy has left your body. Say something positive about someone behind his or her back. It will be obvious the praise is genuine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in a time crunch. The only way to get it all done is to condense every encounter to its pure essence — no time for gossip or wallfing! Do keep all appointments, though — there are hidden costs to not doing so.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Love is the theme. You're aware that life can be lived at many levels of consciousness. You feel free to fly and dip into various mental states now that you are not so concerned about your own security.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're eager to make a deal, and the last thing you want to do is ask for the opinion of a disinterested party — but that's the thing that's going to help you the most. Making a decision from a feverishly excited state is too risky.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your ESP tells you change is on its way. To keep your emotional balance, you detach. Part of you is getting ready to sever a tie, and the other part isn't sure if it's going to let you follow through. By Sunday, one side wins.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



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Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



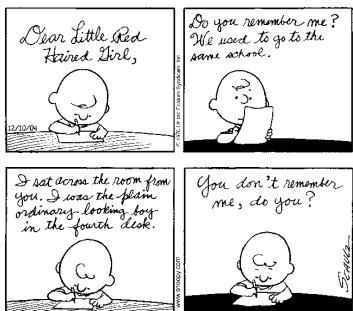
Red and Rover



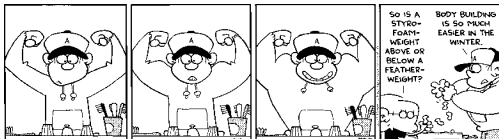
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Footrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



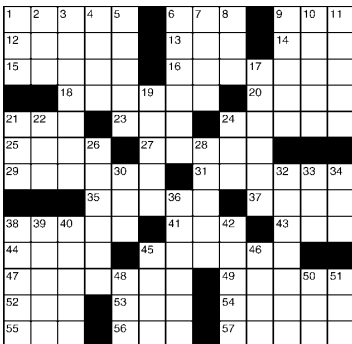
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Ready to rumble
- 6 Pinafare abbr.
- 9 Wrong (Pref.)
- 12 Schroeder's prop
- 13 Verily
- 14 Hostel
- 15 Rum recipe
- 16 "Evita" star
- 18 Gilligan's home
- 20 Bad aroma
- 21 Pompous sort
- 23 Zsa Zsa's sis
- 24 Torment
- 25 "Let's Make a Deal" option
- 27 Spritlike
- 29 Family namesake
- 31 Errand-running assistant
- 35 Delicious
- 37 Icicle's place
- 38 Opening night
- 41 Bambi's aunt
- 43 Drops on the grass
- 44 Corn lily
- 45 Snarl
- 47 Fill-in-the-blanks game
- 49 Hold the scepter
- 52 Bygone days, once
- 53 West of Hollywood
- 54 Goosebump-raising
- 55 Pigs' digs
- 56 Museum stuff
- 57 Wipe out

Down

- 1 Suitable
- 2 "Flying Down to —"
- 3 Fourth President
- 4 Remnants
- 5 Holmes' creator
- 6 Choir book
- 7 Anthropologist
- 8 Blue
- 9 Clementine's dad was one
- 10 More central
- 11 Serpentine
- 12 Valencia, e.g.
- 13 States with conviction
- 21 N. modifier
- 22 Old French coin
- 24 Waste no time
- 26 Ceremony
- 28 Swashbuckling star
- 30 Bran source
- 32 Portuguese wine
- 33 "Hail, Caesar!"
- 34 Fresh
- 36 Wonderland service
- 38 They ain't worth a nickel
- 39 Praise to the skies
- 40 Hen
- 42 Match
- 45 Ski lift
- 46 Ogier's look
- 48 — "Yankee ..."
- 50 Joe's barracks mates?
- 51 Bom

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-10 CRYPTOQUIP

ML SP KMUCD OEYNC MR

LQXD - WQDUCDK . M

RXOQRC PQX WQXEK RYP

M CYN RGXYDC SCYER.

Yesterday's Cryptopop: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT A VERY POPULAR SOAP OPERA SHOULD BE DUBBED A HOT SERIAL?

Today's Cryptopop Clue: R equals S

Should adult actress lie about job?

Dear Abby: I star in adult films. I am not ashamed of what I do, but sometimes other people's reactions to my profession can be severe.

I am trying to get my 4-year-old daughter, "Ashley," accepted into an exclusive religious day care. The problem is that on the application I am to state my profession, as well as my father's. My husband, "Rex," is also in the adult film industry. Rex thinks we should just lie. I want my daughter to be accepted, but I know Ashley will be turned down if they find out we lied on the application. What do you think?

—**"Tempest"** in L.A.
Dear Tempest: You don't have to lie. State that you're in the movie business. Just don't mention that the movies you're in are "blue," and cross your fingers that you don't run into any fans.

Dear Abby: Our 31-year-old son is being married soon in the

Midwest. We would like to know what our financial responsibilities are—if any—regarding the costs of the wedding, in light of the following:

1. Our travel expenses will be about \$1,500, plus an additional \$500 for hotel and food.

2. Although 100 guests are invited, we do not know them, as they are all friends and relatives of the bride and her parents.

3. We are giving our son and his bride a gift of \$1,000.

4. We have no say in the planning of the wedding.

We want to do what is right, but we don't want to pay unless tradition or etiquette demands it.

Please advise.
—**Puzzled Parents in Oregon**
Dear Puzzled Parents: Although it is customary for the groom's parents to host the rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding, the bride's mother can help you select an appropriate restaurant.

Dear Abby



Older woman has no desire for sex

Dear Annie: I am in my 50s and happily married to my wonderful husband, "Bart," for 30 years. For a long time now I have suffered from a problem that he does not have, namely a total lack of desire for sex.

Since I entered menopause, the problem has gotten worse. I've been to doctors who say there is nothing physically wrong. I've been on hormone-replacement therapy for a couple of years to alleviate some of my menopausal symptoms, but it hasn't helped with this particular problem. I tried counseling, but Bart said it wasn't doing any good and it was very time-consuming, so I stopped.

I have read books and magazine articles on the subject, and used some home remedies.

We used to make love nearly every day, but in the past couple years, his desire has toned down quite a bit, so now we average only two or three times a week.

Annie's Mailbox



It's still too much.
—**Need a Solution, Please**

Dear Need a Solution: You should know that two or three times a week at your age is above the national average, and if our mail is any indication, you're getting a lot more than many of our readers.

Remedies for a woman's lack of libido still are in the developmental stage. If your doctor can't help you, ask him or her to refer you to someone who specializes in female sexuality, or contact the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors & Therapists (AASECT), P.O. Box 5488, Richmond, VA 23220-0488 (aasect.org).

Dear Annie: I am sick to death of reading letters from people who are complaining about not getting a gift or a card, something. So what? Maybe some people are not financially able to purchase a gift.

Dear Abby: Two former teachers made an incredible impact on my life. Both encouraged me to stretch far beyond what I thought possible for myself.

A few months ago, I finally contacted my old high school to see if I could locate them. To my dismay, I learned that one had been killed in a car accident the year before, and the other had gone to the hospital last spring and passed away without ever going home.

I feel terrible. I never had the chance to tell two wonderful people how much they mattered. Please urge your readers to stop right now and make that call. We may never have the chance again.

—**Too Late in Cleveland**
Dear Too Late: That's a lesson I'm sorry you learned the hard way. Kind thoughts are meant to be shared; they do no one any good if you keep them to yourself.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.ueppress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YUJIC



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PULIT



NARREB



www.jumble.com

COALJE



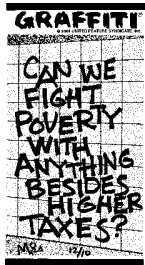
Answer here: " " THE " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EXERT LIMBO FROLIC SUCKLE
Answer: When the pigeons invaded the town square, they brought a — FLOCK OF TROUBLE

Family Circus



"... Then I could start practicin' with lipstick."

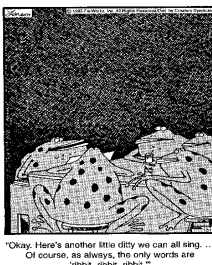


Domis the Menace

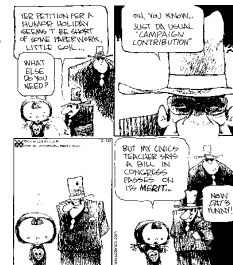


© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



SCOREBOARD

AFTN-Fly & Radio

Friday

AFTN-Sports, 3 p.m. — College basketball: Connecticut at Massachusetts (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, noon — NFL: National Football League week 10 (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, 3:30 p.m. — NFL: NFL Films Game of the Week II (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, 4 p.m. — Golf: Target World Championship, second round.

Saturday

AFTN-Adult, 1 a.m. — College football: NCAA Div. I-A semifinal game, James Madison vs. William and Mary.
AFTN-Adult, 1:30 a.m. — NBA: Memphis at Miami.
AFTN-Sports, 2 a.m. — NBA: Philadelphia at Miami.
AFTN-Pacific, 4 a.m. — College basketball: Alabama-Birmingham at Oklahoma St. (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, 4:30 a.m. — College football: Alabama-Birmingham at Oklahoma St. (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, 9 a.m. — College basketball: Alabama-Birmingham at Oklahoma St. (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, noon — Rhode: National Football League week 10 (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, 3 p.m. — NBA: Portland at Utah of Arizona.
AFTN-Sports, 6 p.m. — College basketball: Utah of Arizona.
AFTN-Pacific, 7 p.m. — College basketball: Utah of Arizona.
AFTN-Adult, 7:30 p.m. — College basketball: Utah of Arizona.
AFTN-Sports, 8 p.m. — College basketball: Oklahoma at Kansas (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, 9 p.m. — College football: NCAA Division I-A semifinal game, James Madison vs. William and Mary.
AFTN-Adult, 10 p.m. — College basketball: Air Force at Montana (T-1).
AFTN-Adult, 10 p.m. — College football: Stanford at Michigan St.
AFTN-Sports, 10 p.m. — College football: NCAA division II championship game, Pittsburg State vs. North Dakota.
AFTN-Pacific, 11 p.m. — College basketball: DePaul vs. Notre Dame.

All times Central European time; dit indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are approximate. Visit www.ustravel.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	11	0	0	.909	359	189
N.Y. Jets	9	5	0	.643	254	215
Pittsburgh	9	5	0	.643	254	215
Miami	6	8	0	.429	187	249
Indianapolis	6	8	0	.429	187	249
San Diego	6	8	0	.429	187	249
Denver	6	8	0	.429	187	249
Philadelphia	6	8	0	.429	187	249
Tennessee	6	8	0	.429	187	249

NFC

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	11	0	0	.909	359	189
Cincinnati	6	5	0	.556	268	272
San Diego	6	5	0	.556	268	272
Denver	6	5	0	.556	268	272
Philadelphia	6	5	0	.556	268	272
San Diego	6	5	0	.556	268	272
Denver	6	5	0	.556	268	272
Philadelphia	6	5	0	.556	268	272
San Diego	6	5	0	.556	268	272

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Philadelphia	11	0	0	.909	359	189
N.Y. Giants	9	5	0	.643	254	215
Cincinnati	9	5	0	.643	254	215
San Diego	6	8	0	.429	187	249
Denver	6	8	0	.429	187	249
Philadelphia	6	8	0	.429	187	249
San Diego	6	8	0	.429	187	249
Denver	6	8	0	.429	187	249
Philadelphia	6	8	0	.429	187	249

Sunday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Oakland at Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	203	193
Cleveland at Buffalo	1	1	0	.500	203	193
Indianapolis at Houston	1	1	0	.500	203	193
Cincinnati at New England	1	1	0	.500	203	193
N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	203	193
San Francisco at Carolina	1	1	0	.500	203	193
San Francisco at Arizona	1	1	0	.500	203	193
Philadelphia at Washington	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Monday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City at Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	203	193
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Giants	1	1	0	.500	203	193
San Francisco at Carolina	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Tuesday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston at Cincinnati	1	1	0	.500	203	193
Seattle at N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500	203	193
Buffalo at Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	203	193
San Diego at Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	203	193
Philadelphia at Arizona	1	1	0	.500	203	193
San Francisco at Carolina	1	1	0	.500	203	193
San Francisco at Arizona	1	1	0	.500	203	193
Philadelphia at Washington	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Wednesday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New York at Miami	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Thursday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New York at Miami	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Friday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New York at Miami	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Saturday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New York at Miami	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Sunday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New York at Miami	1	1	0	.500	203	193

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Tuesday games

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Tuesday games

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Sunday games

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Monday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New York at Miami	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Tuesday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
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Wednesday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
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Thursday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New York at Miami	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Friday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New York at Miami	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Saturday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New York at Miami	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Sunday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
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Tuesday games

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Wednesday games

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New York at Miami	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Thursday games

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Friday games

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Saturday games

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Sunday games

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New York at Miami	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Friday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New York at Miami	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Saturday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New York at Miami	1	1	0	.500	203	193

Sunday games

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New York at Miami	1	<				

Charges not enough to change attitudes

That was a slick production by the prosecutor in the Malice at the Palace. All that was missing was the battered popcorn.

It was pure theater.

- Slide shots of the accused superimposed on a large screen over the sobbing seal of the Oakland County Michigan prosecutor's office Wednesday in a nationally televised news conference.

- Slow-motion video showing the sequence of violence, from the droplets splashing out of the cup that hit Ron Artest to the punches thrown in the stands and on the court.

The charges read over so solemnly: Artest and Indiana teammates Stephen Jackson, David Harrison and Anthony Johnson, one count each of assault and battery; Jermaine O'Neal, two counts of assault and battery; five Detroit fans, assault and battery; one of those fans felony assault charge for throwing a chair; two other fans citations for walking on the court.

What does it all mean? Probably nothing.

Don't expect any of the players to spend a day in jail or suffer a minute of hard labor — even if the days they could get up to three months in the slammer if they're convicted of the misdemeanor. Backed by their cadre of attorneys, the worst the players probably will see is probation and a \$500 fine.

Don't expect the fans to get much more punishment, either. Those who could face jail time. Prosecutor David Goreyca singled out John Green as "the one that's most culpable" for throwing a cup at Artest during the brawl. Green, who has a prior criminal record, faces two assault charges.

Green's lawyer, Shawn Smith, called the charges against his client "outrageous and the worst kind of politics."

The scene at the prosecutor's office had much of politicking, but it wasn't nearly as outrageous as the behavior in The Palace that could have led to far stiffer charges if anyone had been hurt seriously.

One of the so-called fans, Bryant Jackson, was charged with felony assault for throwing a chair into the fray. The charge carries up to four years in prison, though Jackson could face more time because he has a prior criminal record.

This is one case where the legal consequences for the players are not nearly as severe as the punishment already handed out by the league: stiff suspensions and a total of \$12 million in salary.

For all the attention this brawl brought, it's doubtful that the penalties and the lessons learned so far are making an impact on other players and fans.

Just this past weekend in Los Angeles, a woman in the crowd heckled actress Stefanie Powers, the headbanded Minnesota player responded by shouting a sexual obscenity at her.

Just Sprewell's luck: His words got picked up by a court-side microphone and were broadcast on

Steve Wilstein



TV in Los Angeles and Minnesota.

At another time, with a different player, that episode might have drawn a small fine. The Palace brawl changed things, and Sprewell is a repeat offender.

The NBA suspended him for a game, setting him back \$162,000 in salary.

Suspensions and fines haven't made much of dent on Sprewell's demeanor over the years. He was suspended for one year — later reduced to 68 games — for choking Golden State Warriors coach P.J. Carlesimo at practice in 1997. In 1999, Sprewell was fined \$10,000 for kicking a fan's chair during a game. In December 2003, he was fined \$25,000 by the NBA for cursing at New York Knicks chairman James Dolan and screaming at the team's bench.

Last month, he received a misdemeanor citation after arguing with a police officer during a traffic stop. Sprewell, who was a passenger in the vehicle, claimed he was treated unfairly.

Funny how some people keep going on and on about the

James W. Burdick, Stephen Jackson's lawyer, said it was "unfair and inappropriate" to charge his client.

"The problem is this: a few crazed, drunken fans who created a chaotic situation," Burdick said. Steve responded in a way that he thought was necessary to protect himself and protect his friends."

Leave it to the lawyers to obfuscate the obvious and spin the blame away from their poor clients. Jackson didn't have to protect Artest by charging into the stands and swinging wildly at fans half his size. All the players had to do was demand the security at the arena throw out the abusive fans.

But therein lies the problem. The more players and too many fans think they have the right to do anything and say anything they want, as if the money they make or the money they pay gives them that right.

There's a twisted macho thing going on, players standing up for respect when they think they're being disrespected, fans doing out disrespect when they think the players are disrespecting them.

Artest taunted the Pistons and their fans when he came down on the scorer's table after the shot from Ben Wallace following Artest's hard foul. That sarcastic gesture by Artest led to the cup being lobbed from the stands and led to everything else that ensued.

It was a petty incident that came close to being very serious. Artest's foul was charged, and he will take more than suspensions and misdemeanor charges to change them.

Steve Wilstein is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: swilstein@aop.org

Pacers' image takes a hit after Detroit brawl, charges

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Punches have been exchanged, video played and now charges filed.

For the Indiana Pacers, it's been a long three weeks since a brawl with Detroit fans scarred the image of what was once considered one of the NBA's model franchises.

Five Pacers players and seven fans were charged Wednesday for fighting in the stands and on the court on Nov. 19.

Pacers Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, David Harrison and Anthony Johnson all were charged with one count of misdemeanor assault and battery, and could face up to three months in jail if convicted.

Three-time All-Star Jermaine O'Neal was charged with two counts of assault and battery.

Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh has called the brawl "one of the low points in sports and in the fran-

chise's history. Johnson said the melee was "unfortunate, because it's definitely a team built around turning the corner and challenging for a championship, and at the same time being comprised of good guys."

"Definitely, the image of this team will take a hit after what happened in Detroit," said that, compared with the behavior of the past two or three years," Johnson said in a veiled reference to Artest's troubles in recent seasons.

The shocking images broadcast on a seemingly continuous loop since the fight broke out have tarnished the team's image. Artest was suspended for the rest of the regular season, Jackson for 30 games and O'Neal for 25 for their roles in the melee.

Center Jeff Foster still struggles to understand why a skirmish between Artest and Pistons center Ben Wallace escalated into one of the worst cases of player-on-violence in U.S. sports history.

"For whatever reason, that night — the way the game was going, what the score was, the rivalry between the two teams — the crowd and the team met at a point that unfortunately it happened and hopefully never will again," Foster said.

"The whole thing has become such a circus. Something that no team's ever dealt with before. Everybody's just trying to put it behind themselves and just go on to playing basketball."

They've had little luck with that. The injury and suspension-depleted Pacers have lost five games in a row, the longest streak under second-year coach Rick Carlisle.

Carlisle said he doesn't think the franchise's image has been ruined.

"I still see this franchise as one of the real shining pillars in this league," he said. "In my mind, this situation, and how we get through it, is going to prove that again."

Bryant surprised by Malone's reaction

The Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Kobe Bryant would love to have Karl Malone back with the Los Angeles Lakers, and he's been disappointed he made in a recent radio interview was misunderstood.

Bryant also said Wednesday that he tried to call Malone "and squinted at him."

Malone's agent, Dwight Manley, said Tuesday that his client had ruled out a return to the Lakers because of what Bryant said in the radio interview and what the agent called "recent personal attacks made in private."

Bryant said he was shocked by Malone's reaction.

"I meant nothing by it. It wasn't directed toward him," Bryant said after the Lakers' shoot-around. "I'd love to have him back here, everybody would. If he wants to come back and play, the door's always open."

"This is the type of place he should be playing. I'm happy to hear he's 100 percent. And in no way what I said was directed toward him or a personal attack. It's felt some type of way about that, then I apologize."

But Bryant also said: "It is what it is, and I want to move on with the team we have here."

Manley said Malone was fur-

Briefs

ous" and "felt very disrespected" after hearing of an account of what Bryant told XTRA radio in an interview Monday.

Bryant told the radio station he didn't think that Malone, who underwent surgery on his right knee last summer, would return to the Lakers, calling it "just intuition."

Bryant also said the uncertainty wasn't fair to his teammates.

"I think he took what I said the wrong way," Bryant said Wednesday. "Maybe he didn't hear it, maybe he ran off with what somebody else was saying. If I felt like (Malone) was a distraction, I would have said it. I didn't say anything like that."

Malone told KCBST-TV late Tuesday that he didn't "want to be anyone's distraction."

Bryant said his relationship with Malone has "always been cool."

NBA will not participate in hearing over suspensions

NEW YORK — In a change of legal strategy, the NBA won't participate in a grievance hearing about the suspensions four Indi-

ana Pacers received for last month's brawl at the arena against the Detroit Pistons.

The hearing before arbitrator Roger Kaplan will be a one-sided affair Thursday.

The hearing arbitrator has no authority to consider this matter, there is no point in our attending any hearing that he conducts," NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granage said.

The NBA's lawyers say Commissioner David Stern has sole authority — and is the only avenue of appeal — for discipline related to on-court behavior.

Previously, the league indicated it would not argue whether Kaplan has jurisdiction but would take part in the portion of the arbitration hearing that dealt with the underlying case of whether Stern had just cause to hand down some of the longest fight-related suspensions in league history.

Stern suspended Ron Artest for the remainder of the season for his role in the Nov. 19 fight. Stern banned Stephen Jackson for 30 games, Jermaine O'Neal for 25 games and Anthony Johnson for six games.

Artest, O'Neal and Jackson are expected to attend the grievance hearing. Stern was expected to be called as a witness, but the league's refusal to participate will keep that from happening.

Sonics: Seattle snaps Spurs' home streak at 21

SONICS, FROM BACK PAGE

Manu Ginobili scored 18 and Tony Parker 16 in San Antonio's first home loss since March. Duncan had 10 rebounds.

The winning streak ended one game short of the team record of 22 straight in 1999.

Down 60-41 at the half, the

Spurs went on a 23-8 run to open the third to pull to 68-64 with three minutes left in the period.

Duncan accounted for 12 of San Antonio's points during the run.

His four baskets in the quarter were one more than the entire Seattle team (3-for-12).

Leading 31-29 after one period,

the SuperSonics got their advantage into double digits with a 14-2 run to start the second quarter.

Later in the period, Seattle used an 11-2 spur to build a 56-37 lead with less than three minutes left in the half.

San Antonio made only five of its 16 shots in the second and scored only one fast-break basket in the half.

Mia Hamm, right, ended her 17-year career with the U.S. women's national soccer team on Wednesday in Carson, Calif., in a friendly match against Mexico, which the U.S. won 5-0. Hamm has a world-record 158 goals in international play. Julie Foudy and defender Joy Fawcett also ended their careers for the U.S. team.

AP

Emotional send-off for Hamm, Foudy

BY KEN PETERS
The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — The security guards were trying to hustle Mia Hamm off the field, but she was having none of it. Making a U-turn, Hamm headed directly to a group of young fans seated in the stands who were screaming for her autograph.

"We all understand there's a bigger perspective," she said. "We want to make sure this game and these girls go forward together."

Hamm and Julie Foudy closed their remarkable careers with the U.S. women's soccer team in style Wednesday night, cheered on by droves of young girls in a 5-0 victory over Mexico.

"It's hard to believe that it's over. Julie was crying, I'm crying," Hamm said. "I'm extremely blessed."

Foudy said it really hit her that it was her last game in a U.S. uniform as she walked down the tunnel before the game.

"It was a special night," she said. "I was thinking that this was the last time I will hear the national anthem before I go out on the field."

Hamm, the career leading scorer for the American women, assisted on the first two goals in the friendly match against the Mexican national team.

Foudy, meanwhile, played her usual dominating role in the midfield.

Play the



WIN CASH!

Mondays in Stars and Stripes and on Oconus.com

Hamm, 32, and Foudy, 33, took the field for the last time in the finale of a 10-game "Fan Celebration Tour."

Longtime teammate Joy Fawcett, 36, also is retiring, but she was having a party because she is recuperating from back surgery.

Playing before a crowd of 15,549 who were yelling their names throughout the match, Hamm, Foudy and Fawcett smiled and waved to the fans after the final whistle.

The three were honored in a pre-game ceremony and were presented with framed jerseys with their numbers on them and bouquets of roses.

The trio left quite a legacy, including the 1999 World Cup victory over China that drew 90,000 to the Rose Bowl and attracted a TV audience of 40 million.

While those three were playing, the United States won two World Cup championships and two Olympic gold medals, including in Athens last summer.

Hamm wore a jersey bearing her husband's name, Chicago Cubs shortstop Nomar Garciaparra and his family were in the stands.

"I wasn't expecting that," said Hamm, who was touched that the Garciaparras joined her family at the game. "That was special."

Hamm, who finished her career with 158 goals, came close to scoring several times, including becoming a shot off the crossbar in the first half and having a close-range shot blocked by the goalkeeper in the second half.

Aly Wagner and Abby Wambach each scored two goals for the United States, which led 4-0 at halftime.

On the first U.S. goal, Hamm displayed the ballhandling skills that served her so well during her storied career. She took a pass in the right corner of the box, started dribbling to her left, then to her right, feinted back to her left, then rounded around an off-balance defender.

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Kansas City Chiefs' star running back Priest Holmes will miss the rest of the season with a knee injury.

NFL briefs

Holmes, who was leading the NFL in scoring and rushing when he got hurt in early November, was placed on injured reserve Thursday.

The Chiefs (4-8) indicated Wednesday they would probably finish the year without Holmes, whose recovery from sprained knee ligaments has gone much more slowly than the team hoped.

"Priest Holmes is making steady progress on the rehabilitation of his right knee," Chiefs President Carl Peterson said in a statement. "Unfortunately, that rehabilitation is taking longer than originally anticipated, meaning Priest is running out of time to be healthy enough to play in 2005."

Holmes was the NFL's player of the month for October, when he had three 100-yard rushing games, rushed for nine touchdowns and caught 10 passes for 170 yards and a touchdown. That put him on pace to be the first NFL player to score 20 or more touchdowns rushing in three consecutive seasons.

He ends 2004 with 892 yards rushing on 196 carries, with 15

NFL labor talks set to resume

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Any hope of saving the NFL season hinges on whether the next proposal by the players' association stirs serious negotiating.

Sports briefs

All NFL players have been without three months of salary and hundreds of canceled games.

When NFL officials and union leaders return to the bargaining table Thursday, it will mark their first talks since Sept. 9.

That's when the players' association put forth a luxury tax-based system that was rejected by the league because it didn't provide the cost certainty the NFL seeks.

Commissioner Gary Bettman imposed a lockout a week later that has wiped out 382 games — and forced the cancellation of the All-Star Game.

A two-day window is blocked for both sides, but if things don't go well Thursday, there will be no need for a session Friday.

"I'm very hopeful," Detroit forward Brendan Shanahan said Wednesday, following a rules summit that he convened. "This is the third work stoppage in my career in the last 12 years."

With the season slipping away, the NHLPA invited the league back to the table and promised to be armed with a new proposal in an effort to keep the NHL from becoming the first North American league to lose an entire season.

"We are looking forward to the meeting and are very confident that our proposal will provide a basis to end the owners' lockout and resume NHL hockey with a new CBA that can work for both owners and players," Vancouver forward Trevor Linden, the NHLPA president, said in a statement Wednesday.

Arenas have been given the go-ahead by the league to flex up dates for the previous season's hockey on a 45-day rolling basis, which as of now means there are won't any NHL games before the middle of January.

Clippers not expected to play in Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Australia — Former world No. 1 Kim Clijsters is not expected to play in the first Grand Slam of 2005 while she continues to recover

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by their prognosis. (See Page 24 for complete injury report provided by the league):
Redskins LB LaVar Arrington (knee) questionable.
Steelers WR Plaxico Burress (hamstring) questionable.

touchdowns. He also caught 19 passes for 187 yards and one score.

Colts WR Harrison agrees to six-year, \$66 million deal

Marvin Harrison agreed to a six-year, \$66 million contract with the Indianapolis Colts on Wednesday that includes a \$22 million signing bonus, according to a source within the league who requested anonymity.

The star receiver is making \$5.56 million this season.

Harrison, 32, who set an NFL record with 143 receptions in the 2002 season, has 826 receptions in nearly nine seasons with the Colts after being their first-round draft pick in 1996. Earlier this season, he passed the 800-catch mark faster than any receiver in NFL history.

He and Peyton Manning have also combined for more completions than any other quarterback and receiver, passing Jim Kelly and Andre Reed of the Buffalo Bills. They are second in career touchdowns to Steve Young and Jerry Rice of San Francisco.

Rattay, Barlow out for 49ers

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Tim Rattay and Kevin Barlow will sit out the San Francisco 49ers' game at Arizona on Sunday, leaving the NFL's worst team without their starting quarterback and running back.

Rattay has a torn fascia muscle in his right foot. He must keep weight off his foot for two weeks, coach Dennis Erickson said Wednesday.

Barlow sustained a concussion during Sunday's loss at St. Louis. Ken Dorsey will make his fourth start of the season in Rattay's place. Maurice Hicks, on the 49ers' practice squad until last month, will get his first NFL start in Barlow's spot.

Browns to start QB McQueen

BEREA, Ohio — Although Jeff Garcia is listed as probable on Cleveland's injury report and in interim coach Terry Robiskie says he is "90 percent healthy," rookie Luke McQueen will make his second career start Sunday when the Browns face the Buffalo Bills.

"We told him that we thought Luke went out this weekend (against New England) and did a pretty decent job," Robiskie said. "We wanted to give Luke another week." (The Jeff) said he was fine with it."

Garcia, who has a strained right shoulder, was not available for comment Wednesday.

from an injury to her left wrist.

Australian Open chief executive Paul McNamee said that the players' management committee does not expect her to play, and the players' camp further doubt on her availability on her Web site.

Clijsters, the 2004 Australian Open runner-up, was limited to just 22 matches this season and fell to No. 22 in the most recent rankings.

Elis trails by one in Dunhill Championship

MALELANE, South Africa — Bruce McDonald of Zimbabwe shot 6-under 66 Thursday to take a one-shot lead over Senegal's Arie Elie in the PGA European Tour's season-opening Dunhill Championship.

While most of the field struggled to break par at the Leopard Creek Country Club, McDonald mastered the unexpectedly cool, blustery conditions in the first round after a week in which temperatures soared above 100 degrees.

Former NFL receiver Rison jailed for failure to pay child support

DECATUR, Ga. — Former Pro Bowl receiver Andre Rison was jailed Wednesday in DeKalb County for failure to pay child support.

Rison, 37, who spent 12 seasons in the NFL with Indianapolis, Atlanta, Cleveland, Jacksonville, Green Bay, Kansas City and Oakland, was sentenced to jail until he pays \$127,000 to a woman with whom he has two sons.

Rison, a five-time Pro Bowl selection who was MVP of the 1994 Pro Bowl, was sentenced to an additional 20 days in jail for violating a court order to pay \$3,500-a-month child support for his 16-year-old and 18-year-old sons since August 2002.

Tyson accused of jumping on car in Arizona

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson was arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor criminal damage for allegedly jumping on the hood of a car outside a nightclub, police said.

Tyson, who moved to Scottsdale early this year, appeared with attorneys at the city's police station Tuesday afternoon and was released after being given a citation.



Peyton Manning needs four TD passes to tie Dan Marino's record of 48 in a season. Manning will face revenge-minded Houston on Sunday.

Texas primed for Colts

Manning accused of running up the score last time

BY JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans were plenty embarrassed when Peyton Manning threw five touchdown passes against them in a 35-point rout.

Even more humiliating to the Texans was that Manning and the Indianapolis Colts seemed to still be going for points instead of running out the clock in the final minutes of the lopsided game.

"The whole game left a bad taste in our mouth," Houston offensive tackle Todd Wade said of the 49-14 defeat on Nov. 14. "It was embarrassing. Them throwing the ball deep on the last play. That was tough. That's definitely motivation."

Still smarting, the Texans would like to keep Manning from breaking the NFL record for touchdown passes in a season when the teams meet Sunday in Houston.

Manning needs four TD passes to tie Dan Marino's 20-year-old record of 48. During the Colts' five-game winning streak, Manning has thrown for fewer than

four touchdowns only once — in Indianapolis' 51-24 victory over Tennessee on Sunday.

With that kind of success and the Texans' recent struggles on defense, most people are pointing to this week as the one when Manning surpasses Marino.

The Colts might want to bring their own confetti and champagne, though. Houston isn't in the mood to host a celebration.

"You want to be record-setters," cornerback Dunta Robinson said. "You don't want anyone to set a record against you and at your house."

The game has the makings of a colossal mismatch.

Houston ranks last in the NFL in touchdown passes allowed with 29 and ranks 28th of 32 teams in yards allowed. The Texans also are last in sacks, meaning Manning should have plenty of time to wait for his talented corps of receivers to work themselves free in the Texans' zone defense.

That's what happened in Indianapolis last month.

Up by 35 points in the fourth

quarter, Manning continued to throw the ball against a team that was clearly beaten. When it was finally over, the Texans were already pointing to their next matchup as a chance to quiet the trash-talking Colts.

"I kind of took that personal, being that I thought the Colts were classier," linebacker Antwan Peek said. "They smeared it in our face last time."

Even more upsetting to some of the Texans was that Manning and many of Indianapolis' other starters stayed in the game until the end.

"I've been watching the rest of their games, and they've taken all those guys out," said Robinson, who lost his composure in the fourth quarter of that game and drew a personal foul penalty. "I just didn't understand why they kept them in at the end of the game against us."

Defensive end Gary Walker, one of the first to accuse the Colts of running up the score, doesn't care if Manning gets the record Sunday.

"As long as we have one more point than they have, then I don't care what happens," Walker said.

Rice upset that others get notice as he gets sacks

BY FRED GOODALL
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The passion in Simeon Rice's voice rose with every word, though, that never reached the level of anger.

That's because the NFL's most prolific pass rusher over his past 50 regular-season games insists it no longer bothers him that he doesn't receive the recognition he thinks he deserves for being one of the best to ever play his position.

The Tampa Bay star looks at other defensive ends built in the same mold — tall, athletic, speedy — and sees players he believes are far more celebrated, even though they are essentially following in his footsteps.

No offense to Jevon Kearse and Jason Taylor, but Rice's said he set the standard for today's pass rushers and has the numbers to prove it.

"There were other great pass rushers before me and I'll always pay homage to them. But the basketball-type. The big man who runs 4.4 or 4.3? I was the first one out of the gate," Rice said.

Last Sunday, the 30-year-old Rice became the 22nd player in league history to record 100 sacks, reaching the milestone in just his 139th game. He joined Michael Strahan, who has 118 in 175 games, as the only active players in that exclusive club.

Since the 11th game of 2001, Rice has an NFL-high 46½ sacks, including eight this year to stay on course for his seventh season with at least 10. His average of 11.6 per season is the highest among active players, with Strahan (10.3) the only other player in double-digits.

"I've always done beyond the glory, but never got the real glory for it. But I've accepted that."

Simeon Rice
Tampa Bay defensive end

"But they've yet to say, this cat is the best who's ever done it. And I know I am," Rice said.

The third pick in the 1996 draft, Rice had 51½ sacks in five seasons for the Arizona Cardinals before signing with Tampa Bay as a free agent in 2001 with a reputation as an outstanding pass rusher who was weak against the run.

Playing on the same line with perennial Pro Bowl tackle Warren Sapp, Rice was second in the league with 15½ sacks in 2002, helping the Bucs win the Super Bowl. He was second again in 2003 with 15, earning his third trip to the Pro Bowl.

Still, the ninth-year pro said when people start talking about the game's top pass rushers, he's routinely left out of the discussion.

He believes one of the reasons is he's a free spirit who rubs some people the wrong way because he's speaks his mind.

Others, he said, are hesitant to give him his due because they mistakenly feel he doesn't work hard.

"To people who see from afar, the only thing that shows up on Sunday is the talent level. In their minds, I don't have to do all the things necessary to play at the level I do. They don't see me staying after practice for hours," Rice said.

"I started understanding early on that being heralded is more glitter than gold. ... This league creates heroes and villains, and it's where you fall. I was vilified because I said Arizona was the armpit of the NFL, which it was, from an organization standpoint. No players really wanted to go there and play, and no coaches really wanted to go there and coach."

No longer playing next to Sapp, who signed with Oakland, Rice got off a slow start this season.

Facing persistent double teams from the first time since his days in Arizona, he had one sack in the first five games.

Instead of making excuses, the 6-foot-5, 268-pound Rice vowed the sacks would come. He's had seven in the past seven games, including two against Michael Vick on Sunday in a 27-0 rout of Atlanta.

Noting that Rice possesses rare speed and quickness for a man his size, Vick called the defensive end a "freak of nature."

Coach Jon Gruden can't understand why Rice is not a household name.

"I don't know if it's because he's in Tampa or what. He's a great, great player with a great work ethic. To get 100 sacks in nine years is phenomenal," Gruden said.

Rice has sacked 38 quarter-



Tampa Bay DE Simeon Rice, lower right, sacks Atlanta Falcons QB Michael Vick during the Buccaneers' 27-0 win Sunday in Tampa, Fla. Rice recorded his 100th and 101st career sacks during the game, becoming one of 22 NFL players to record 100 career sacks.

backs, and surprisingly didn't take any added satisfaction in getting No. 100 against the most elusive scrambler in the league.

When he dropped Vick for a 4-yard loss early in the second quarter, he didn't celebrate. He was stunned when the officials stopped the game and gave him the ball.

"I've always done beyond the glory, but never got the real glory for it. But I've accepted that," Rice said. "I feel a guy like Reggie White should be even more upset than me. They don't celebrate enough. ... And, until they celebrate a cat like that, they're sure not going to celebrate a cat like me."

Giants plan to celebrate milestones by Bonds

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Giants will honor Barry Bonds' home run milestones and other achievements as they always have — with great fanfare.

"There are a lot of things we're planning," executive vice president and chief operating officer Larry Baer said Wednesday.

"The bottom line is, we want to have a chance to make clear that we're continuing to recognize him and represent him as we have in the past. When we open the season in 2005, we're going to recognize his historic milestones, and those by any Giant, appropriately and in a major way."

On Tuesday, a top official in the commissioner's office said baseball was holding off on plans to market Bonds' pursuit of Hank Aaron's home run record, a decision made after a report of the slugger's grand jury testimony about steroids.

Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, said a meeting was canceled because the commissioner's office and MasterCard International, a corporate sponsor it was courting for the campaign.

"I don't mean Bonds won't receive plenty of recognition during his pursuit to become home run king, Baer said.

"I want to remove this notion that Bonds is being back from Barry at this point," he said.

Bonds also signed deal this week to appear on Topps baseball cards. Bonds did not appear on Topps cards last year after he



An official in the commissioner's office recently said baseball was holding off on plans to market Bonds' (above) pursuit of Hank Aaron's home run record, a decision made after a report of the slugger's grand jury testimony about steroids.

opted out of the marketing plan of the Major League Baseball Players Association.

"Barry's trading cards have always been highly collectible and we are thrilled to have him in our 2005 lineup," Topps vice president Warren Fries said.

The deal grants Topps exclusive rights among trading card companies for autographed baseball cards, game-used memorabilia cards and use of Bonds' image on packaging and advertising.

Bonds, the seven-time NL MVP who also has repeatedly denied steroid use, testified to the grand jury that he used a clear substance and a cream given to him by a trainer who was indicted in the BALCO investigation, but said he didn't know they were steroids. Prosecutors allege those substances were performance-enhancing drugs.

The 40-year-old Bonds has 703 career homers, trailing only Babe Ruth (714) and Aaron (755). Giants haven't announced specifics for how they will celebrate Bonds' accomplishments but are in the planning process.

Lieber, Leiter, Williams move as teams scramble for starters

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jon Lieber agreed to a deal with the Philadelphia Phillies, AL Leiter returned to the Florida Marlins and Woody Williams went back to the San Diego Padres as teams moved quickly to grab starting pitchers Wednesday after the first free-agent deadline of the offseason passed.

Lieber left the New York Yankees, agreeing to a \$21 million, three-year contract with Philadelphia, and Leiter departed the New York Mets with some degree of acrimony, for an \$8 million, one-year contract from Florida.

Williams, part of The St. Louis Cardinals' NL pennant-winning team, is guaranteed \$3.5 million by the Padres as part of a deal that could be worth \$14.5 million for two years.

The Yankees didn't waste any time filling Lieber's spot in the rotation, closing in on a \$21 million, three-year contract with Jaret Wright. New York also has a preliminary agreement with second baseman Troy Loperfido on a \$4 million, two-year deal.

Dustin Hermanson left the San Francisco Giants for a \$5.5 million, two-year contract with the Chicago White Sox, catcher Jorge Posada left the Yankees for the White Sox for a \$550,000, one-year deal with Texas, and reliever Matt Mantei moved on from Arizona for a \$750,000, one-year contract with Boston.

Forty-one free agents, the highest total since 1985, were offered salary arbitration by their former teams before Tuesday's midnight deadline. They have until Dec. 19 to accept the offers and can re-sign through Jan. 8. Players receiving 168 free agents are barred from going back to their old teams until May 1, meaning they almost certainly will play elsewhere next year. That group includes first baseman Carlos Delgado (Toronto); outfielder Steve Finley (Los Angeles); outfielder

Baseball free agent roundup

Maglio (Orlando) White Sox; and pitchers Eric Milton and Kevin Millwood (Philadelphia).

Several players agreed to re-sign just before the deadline, including pitcher UT's Rodde, who got an \$18 million, two-year contract from the Minnesota Twins. St. Louis agreed to one-year deals with pitchers Matt Morris (\$2.5 million) and Cal Eldred (\$600,000).

Williams along with outfielder John Mabry (\$7.5 million).

Before heading to the winter meetings, which start Friday in Anaheim, Calif., several teams were looking for pitching help.

Lieber, 35 in April, spent last season with the Yankees, going 14-8 with a 4.33 ERA in 27 starts. He was 1-1 with a 3.43 ERA in three playoff starts for the Yankees, and got more effective later in the season as he regained arm strength following 2002 elbow-ligament replacement surgery.

Lieber gets a \$1 million signing bonus and will earn \$5.25 million in 2005, \$7.25 million in 2006 and \$7.5 million in 2007.

"I look forward to bringing this ballclub back into playoff contention," Lieber said. "I'd like a taste of that last year, and I'd like that to continue."

Lieber joins former All-Stars Randy Wolf and Vicente Padilla, Brett Myers and Craig Litzle in rotation that is losing Milton and Millwood.

"He's a great competitor who's going to go out there and get us deep into games and not give in to hitters," Phillies general manager Ed Wade said.

Lieber, 10-8 with a 3.21 ERA last season, returned to the team he helped pitch to the 1997 World Series title.

"This thing has had a good feel to it, right from the start," Marlins General Manager Larry Beinfest said. "It has taken a while to get to this day, but we were all on the optimistic. We really wanted it."

The 39-year-old left-hander had spent seven seasons with the Mets, who offered a one-year deal worth \$4 million to \$5 million during talks Leiter described as "convoluted and fuzzy."

Lieber said he believed the Mets weren't "upfront" and "forthright." He was jettisoned as part of a makeover under new general manager Omar Minaya that includes the departure of relievers John Franco, Mike Stanton and Ricky Bottalico and outfielder Richard Hidalgo.

Lieber, who played with AL one day and he pretty much asked a good question," Minaya said. "He asked, 'Do I want him on the team?' How do I see him in the plan?" As the general manager, you've got to make some tough decisions and this is one of the hard decisions that I had to make."

Williams, 38, was 11-8 with a 4.18 ERA for St. Louis last season, going 2-5 before winning 10 of his last 12 games. He signed as an opener of all three postseason series for the Cardinals.

Williams pitched with San Diego from 1999 until he was dealt to St. Louis for outfielder Ray Lankford and cash in a waiver deal shortly after the trading deadline. He was acquired by Manager Kevin Towers called that trade the worst he's ever made.

Wade must pass a physical to complete his deal with the Yankees, and Wright's representatives and the Yankees have to finalize contract language. New York still hopes to sign at least one more starter, and is talking with Carl Pavano and Milton.

Washington stadium could profit White Sox owner's son

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A company run by the son of Chicago White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf could earn millions providing consultant services to the District of Columbia government on plans for development of a baseball stadium in the city.

International Facilities Group is a leading contender for a \$3.7 million Reinsdorf.

Michael Reinsdorf is the managing partner and co-founder of IFG, which was established in 1995. The firm provides management and development services to municipalities and professional sports owners.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that over the past nine years IFG has been involved in the development of several major league ballparks including Comerica Park in Detroit, Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati, the Florida Marlins Baseball Stadium in Miami and Miller Park in Milwaukee.

The firm also has provided services on the development of non-baseball projects in San Antonio, Denver and Indianapolis.

Some members of the D.C. Council, which takes a final vote Tuesday on the \$531 million stadium financing package, have expressed concern about a potential conflict of interest involving the Reinsdorfs.

Councilman Adrian M. Fenty, an opponent of the baseball deal, raised questions about Jerry Reinsdorf's role as head of Major League Baseball's relocation committee. That panel recommended that the Expos be moved to Washington from Montreal beginning with the 2005 season.

The recommendation was conditionally ratified by baseball owners during a telephone conference call Friday. Approval was conditioned on enactment of legislation to authorize financing consistent with the agreement signed in September by the Expos and Washington Mayor Anthony A. Williams.

3B Glaus signs with Diamondbacks

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — All-Star third baseman Troy Glaus agreed Thursday to a four-year contract with the Arizona Diamondbacks, who hope the 2002 World Series MVP will rebound from a season cut short by an injured shoulder.

Glaus, 28, was a three-time All-Star for the Anaheim Angels but hit just 14 home runs and 42 RBIs this year. He had shoulder surgery May 21.

We have stated that our intent was to return this organization to the competitive prominence we enjoyed in the early stages of the franchise, and the addition of a player of Troy's caliber gets us headed in that direction," Diamondbacks' managing partner Ken Kendrick said.

Glaus led the AL with 47 homers in 2000, then hit 41 the following year. He has had three 100-run seasons, but shoulder injuries have slowed him the past two seasons.

Briefs

Arizona went 51-111 last season after only three years after winning the World Series. The Diamondbacks tied for the 10th-most losses in major league history.

Dye agrees with White Sox

CHICAGO — Outfielder Jermaine Dye and the White Sox agreed Thursday on a \$10.15 million, two-year contract, giving Chicago a replacement for Maglio Ordonez in right field.

Dye hit .265 with 23 home runs and 80 RBIs in 137 games with Oakland last season. He has hit 20 or more home runs five times and has three 100-RBI seasons.

The 30-year-old Dye has a career .272 average with 161 home runs and 611 RBIs in 1,039 games over nine major league seasons with Atlanta, Kansas City and Oakland.

Dye will make \$4 million next year and \$5 million in 2006.

Red Sox slugger's Ortiz will not play in winter league

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — Boston Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz will not play this winter with the Escondido Lions in his native Dominican Republic because of a nagging injury in his right shoulder.

Ortiz said Thursday he wants to rest so his shoulder is ready for spring training.

"I feel a very strong discomfort in the shoulder. I'm sorry I can't play winter ball this season," said Ortiz, who had played with Escondido for seven consecutive seasons dating back to 1997.

"I have to get well to be healthy when the major league camps start."

Ortiz, MVP of the AL championship series, had his best season in the majors with a .301 average, 41 home runs and 139 RBIs.

This year's Heisman finalists are doubled over

First time two players from two schools will make trip to New York

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jason White has a chance to join Archie Griffin as a two-time Heisman Trophy winner.

White, the Oklahoma quarterback who won last year's Heisman, was chosen Wednesday as one of five finalists for college football's most prestigious individual title.

Joining White for Saturday's award ceremony in New York will be his Oklahoma teammate Adrian Peterson, Southern California teammates Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush, and Utah quarterback Alex Smith.

It's the first time teammates from two schools were selected as finalists for the award.

Among Heisman contenders who did not make the top 5 were Texas running back Cedric Benson, Auburn quarterback



USC tailback Reggie Bush

USC QB Matt Leinart

Oklahoma RB Adrian Peterson

Utah QB Alex Smith

Oklahoma QB Jason White

Jason Campbell and California teammates Aaron Rodgers and J.J. Arrington.

Griffin, a running back who played for Ohio State, won the Heisman in 1974 and 1975 and is the only two-time winner.

White was the favorite for last year's Heisman and beat out Pittsburgh wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald and Mississippi quarterback Eli Manning. This time, the race appears too close to call. White and Leinart, USC's quarterback, have put up similar numbers while leading their teams to 12-0 records and a matchup in the Orange Bowl for the national championship.

White comes to town after passing for 2,961 yards and 33 touchdowns, and in a much better mood than last year. A week before the '03 Heisman ceremony, the Sooners were upset by Kansas State 35-7 in the Big 12 title game and White had his worst game of the season.

This season, White threw three touchdown passes in Oklahoma's 42-3 rout of Colorado in the league title game.

The presence of Peterson, a freshman, helped White produce another fine season but may hinder the quarterback's chances of matching Griffin's feat. Peterson ran for 1,843 yards and 15 touchdowns, and produced his best games against the Sooners' toughest opponents.

No freshman has ever won the Heisman.

White, a sixth-year senior, has a Heisman vote and said he planned to pick Peterson No. 1 on his ballot.

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops can't decide between the two.

"These guys are tremendous. You see it every week. They complement each other with great running and passing — and it's made a major difference this year, the fact that we're strong in both," Stoops said.

"But a lot of these guys have helped them. So I wouldn't be the one to choose. It wouldn't be fair."

USC has a similar situation with Leinart and Bush. They complement each other, but also could take votes away from each other.

Leinart has thrown for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns, with only six interceptions. He is the Trojans' steady leader.

The versatile Bush is their spectacular home-run hitting running back. Bush's 15 touchdowns have come running, receiving and on returns. He has also thrown a TD pass.

"I think I might have shaken up the votes a little bit," he said after running for 204 yards, including TD runs of 81 and 65 yards, in USC's 29-24 regular-season-ending victory at UCLA.

Led by Smith, Utah became the first team from a mid-major conference to reach a BCS bowl game this season. The versatile junior has passed for 2,624 yards and 28 TDs and run for 563 yards and 10 touchdowns.

The Utes will play Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1.

Georgia DE Pollack tabbed best lineman

BY JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Georgia defensive end David Pollack won the Lombardi Award as the nation's top college lineman Wednesday night, one year after being a runner-up for the honor.

Pollack edged out Shaun Cody of Southern Cal, Erasmus James of Wisconsin and Derrick Johnson of Texas for the 40-pound granite trophy. Last year he finished behind Oklahoma's Tommie Harris, who also who won the award on his second try.

"I tell you what, you don't want to be known as a two-time loser," Pollack joked. "I'm so proud to be honored this way ... I definitely couldn't have expected this."

Pollack had 48 tackles, including 9½ sacks and 14½ tackles for a loss, for No. 8 Georgia this season. He will lead the Bulldogs (9-2) against No. 16 Wisconsin (9-2) in the Outback Bowl on Jan. 1.

Once envisioned to be only a "good program guy" by Georgia coach Mark Richt, Pollack has turned out to be much more.

"We thought he'd be a starter someday and do some good things," Richt said. "But we never dreamed he'd do the things he's done."

Pollack laughed about his coach's assessment of him as a recruit.

"Hey, I didn't think Coach Richt was going to be that good of a coach," he said.

Pollack arrived at Georgia expecting to play football and spent his entire first summer in Athens getting ready to be a blocker, only to be shifted to defense just as fall workouts began because of injuries and a lack of depth on the line.

White's twin peaks

Oklahoma QB has chance to win back-to-back Heismans after leading Sooners to second straight BCS title game

BY JEFF LATZKE

The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Growing up in a small Oklahoma town, Jason White would try to throw a football without a tire. Usually, he'd miss. But there was this consolation: He sure could run.

So when White played the sport in first grade, he was a running back.

After reconstructive surgery on both knees, White can't scamper around the way he used to. But he sure can throw. And the Oklahoma Sooners quarterback has a shot to become just the second player in history to win the Heisman Trophy twice.

Back in school as a sixth-year senior after winning the 2003 Heisman, he's also in the unusual position of having a say in who claims the 2004 award Saturday — just honorees get a vote.

Still, another nice individual trophy isn't foremost in White's mind.

"It doesn't really matter to me," he said. "I came back for a couple reasons, and winning the Heisman wasn't one of them."

Maybe that's why, at one point this season, White said he'd cast

his vote for teammate Adrian Peterson, a freshman tailback. White has reiterated that he wouldn't feel comfortable voting for himself.

White and Peterson were two of five Heisman finalists announced Wednesday, joined by Southern California teammates Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush, and Utah's Alex Smith.

In two seasons as Oklahoma's starting QB, White has thrown for 6,807 yards and 73 touchdowns while leading the Sooners to consecutive undefeated regular seasons. Unlike last season, White helped Oklahoma win the Big 12 championship game. Oklahoma (12-0) will play USC for the national title in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4; last season, the Sooners lost the Bowl Championship Series title game to LSU.

White has been the steady force for the Sooners this season.

When they found themselves trailing Kansas State, White threw two second-half touchdown passes. And when Texas A&M appeared headed for an upset, White tossed three TDs after the break.

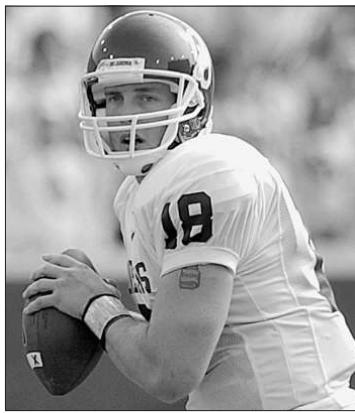
Overall, he completed 65 percent of his passes for 2,961 yards

and 33 touchdowns with only six interceptions this season. He threw for 3,846 yards and 40 touchdowns a year ago. All those numbers make him a candidate to succeed Ohio State running back Archie Griffin (1974-75) as a two-time Heisman winner.

Compared to last season, White says he thinks he's played "smarter" — taking care of the ball and understanding the offense better. "His poise and the way he's managed the game this year is far better than last year," OU offensive coordinator Chuck Long said. "We were done by halftime in a lot of games last year, so he never got to experience some adversity until it was too late. He's dealt with adversity a lot better this year."

Long considers the Texas A&M game White's shining moment. The then-No. 22 Aggies led visiting Oklahoma by two touchdowns on three occasions, but White kept bringing his team back. He finished with five touchdown passes as the Sooners came back a 28-14 deficit to win 42-35.

"That was the one signature game that you said you'd coach," he said. "He has improved from last year," Long said. "He has grown and matured from last year."



Jason White (2,961 yards, 33 TD passes, six INTs) can join Ohio State's Archie Griffin as the only players to win back-to-back Heismans.

When asked what he thinks makes his quarterback better this season, coach Bob Stoops points out that White is finally healthy.

Ailing legs limited his mobility and forced him to play out of the shotgun last season. Now he can take snaps from under center,

which makes Oklahoma's running game stronger, and White has an easier time scrambling.

"He was more of a scrambler before he was a pocket passer," Long said. "He had to redefine his game when he did get hurt to become more of a pocket passer."

Kentucky uses spurt to get past Morehead

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The score showed that Kentucky had one of its better defensive outings in recent years.

No. 10 Kentucky held an opponent to its lowest total in almost six seasons Wednesday night, routing Morehead State 71-40.

The 40 points also were the Eagles' lowest total in 26 years.

Yet Kentucky coach Tubby Smith focused on the ragged shooting by the Wildcats (5-1) and the fact they didn't put away an overmatched opponent until the second half.

"Defensively, we did the job," Smith said. "We stopped some of the easy baskets and contested shots. We didn't foul as much, so those were some of the positive things we did."

"I'd like to see us shoot the ball better," he added, noting the 3-for-18 shooting from three-point range and 39.4 percent overall mark.

Kelema Azubike was one Wildcat who didn't struggle with his shooting. He finished 8-for-13 from the field and scored 19 of his 21 points in the second half, his third straight game with at least 20 points.

Chuck Hayes had 10 points and 10 rebounds for Kentucky, which opened the second half with a 20-0 run. Reserve center Shagari Alleyne had 11 points, eight rebounds and six blocked shots — all season highs.

Morehead State (4-2) trailed only 29-23 at halftime, but the Eagles didn't get their first second-half basket until 11:07 remained. The Eagles — coached by Kyle Macy, a member of Kentucky's 1978 NCAA champion-



Kentucky's Randolph Morris puts up a shot during the Wildcats' 71-40 victory over Morehead.

ship team — shot 27.3 percent from the field and committed 24 turnovers.

"We knew coming in we were very young and inexperienced," Macy said. "We can't emulate in practice the speed of the game that Kentucky plays with their pressure defense. You saw they really extended us out on the floor."

Morehead State had the fewest points by a Kentucky opponent since South Carolina lost 74-40 to the Wildcats in February 1999.

It was the fewest points scored in a game by Morehead State since early in the 1978-79 season, when the Eagles had 37 in a loss to Indiana.

Josh Reed had 10 points for Morehead State.

Kentucky is 8-0 overall against Morehead State. The schools are about 65 miles apart.

Kentucky, which lost at No. 8 North Carolina on Saturday, won for the 17th straight time after a loss.

No. 19 Virginia 79, Furman 67: At Charlottesville, Va., Gary Forbes scored 21 points for the Cavaliers (7-1), who were coming off an 81-79 loss at Iowa State on Monday night and were playing for the fifth time in 11 days. Elton Brown added 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Quan Proffitt had 14 points for the Paladins (3-4).

The BCS somehow blew it even after getting it right

Here's a call for returning to college football's roots: Forget the national title game, let's argue in taverns

By MICHAEL ROSENBERG

Detroit Free Press

DETROIT — The BCS causes cancer. The BCS steals lunch boxes. If not for the BCS, we'd have peace in Iraq.

Sorry, I heard there was an award for most hysterical reaction to the Bowl Championship Series, and I thought I'd give it a shot. And I bet I fell way short, too. I forgot to mention the role of the BCS in Ben Affleck's career.

Can I let you in on a little secret about the BCS? It fulfilled its one overriding goal. The BCS is designed to match the No. 1 and No. 2 teams. And No. 1 Southern Cal will face No. 2 Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl.

Yes, there is another undefeated team, Auburn, which is left out.

(For what it's worth, I think Auburn should be No. 1.) But it's not the BCS's fault that there were more than two undefeated teams this year.

So technically, the BCS fulfilled its mission. In a larger sense, though, it failed.

The BCS was designed to appease two groups: Israelis and Palestinians. No, wait, that was the Camp David Summit. The BCS was designed to appease people who want a playoff and those who like the bowl system. It went 0-for-2.

If you want a playoff, you look at Auburn being left out and feel the veins popping out of your head. Why, you wonder, can't they solve this on the field? If you like the bowl system, you look at Texas in the Rose Bowl and think the Longhorns should be arrested for trespassing, Michigan, which will arrive in Pasadena 10 days

Commentary

before the game, should be arrested (for loitering), Michigan-Texas is a great matchup, but it doesn't feel like a Rose Bowl. It feels like a video game.

That's why we should go back to the old system: conference champs go to specific bowls, all on Jan. 1, as the Lord intended. Let's go '80s-retro. I want tear-away jerseys, huge shoulder pads and announcers wearing matching ugly blazers with big patches on the chest, tooting their network. And I want those old-school TV graphics, the ones that take up half the screen with groundbreaking statistical nuggets like:

USC: WHITE.

MICHIGAN: BLUE.

Yes, under that system, we would have USC-Michigan in the Rose, and probably Oklahoma-California in the Orange, Auburn-Texas in the Sugar and Keith Jackson yelling "FUM-BLE!" at the Rose Bowl, except he would be yelling it after an actual fumble, instead of his current practice of yelling it five seconds after the play is blown dead.

Would this give us an undisputed national champion? Doubtful. In fact, the top three teams would all be in different time zones. But there would be a few benefits:

■ We would spread the whining out across the country, which is less damaging to the environment.

■ We would have three highly entertaining, highly meaningful bowls.

■ Computers would not be in-

volved at all, since we'd all be working on the Apple IIe, and by the time that baby booted up, it would be Jan. 14.

Look, the college presidents clearly don't want a playoff. They are understandably worried that by extending the season, they would run out of time to fire coaches.

(On that note, let me just say I appreciate the interest, but I will not be coaching Notre Dame. Hey, if everyone else is making self-serving announcements about how they are "removing themselves from consideration," even though nobody thought they were actually being considered for the job, then why not me? Maybe I can get a raise out of this.)

Eventually, we'll probably have a playoff. But we have years and literally thousands of self-serving Myles Brand press releases before that happens. (I keep waiting for ol' Myles to give us the NCAA's stance on the situation in Ukraine. Come on, man, my inbox is begging for it.)

Until then, why not go back to the old system? Look what we have now: one national championship game, which isn't even a real national championship game, overshadowing the rest. And then we have a bunch of arguments, led by anonymous dopes on the Internet, typing with their one remaining tooth.

Under the old system, we would have three games with an influence on the national championship, but none would claim to be something other than what they are. And then we'd have a bunch of arguments, but only among friends and patrons of the same tavern. Sounds like progress to me.

LOOK FOR
HOLIDAY GREETINGS
FROM FOLKS BACK HOME

in your December 16th
STARS AND STRIPES Middle East edition

STARS AND STRIPES.
Your Hometown Newspaper



SPORTS



Chiefs RB Holmes out
for rest of the season
with knee injury, Page 27

Sonics silence Spurs

Seattle grabs
share of best
record in NBA

BY T.A. BADGER
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan can be added to the list of those who believe the Seattle SuperSonics are for real.

The surprising Sonics built a big first-half lead Wednesday night against San Antonio, and then they got clutch scoring from Ray Allen down the stretch to hold on for a 102-96 victory over the Spurs.

"They're a very good team," said Duncan, who scored a season-high 39 points while leading a San Antonio comeback that petered out in the final minutes.

"Very well-coached—they execute well," Duncan said. "We have respect for them."

Seattle's victory ended San Antonio's 21-game home winning streak and gave the Sonics a share of the NBA's best record at 16-3. Phoenix also improved to 16-3 after beating the Los Angeles Lakers 113-110 late Wednesday night.

It was also the Sonics' second win this season against San Antonio in as many tries, and both times they topped 100 points.

The best anyone else has managed against the Spurs, now 16-4, is 96 points.

Despite the two wins, Allen called San Antonio the league's best team and said the Sonics are still taking shape.

"Right now, we're just one of the teams with the best records," said Allen, who finished with 29 points, including a pair of three-pointers late in the game after San Antonio pulled to within a basket. "We've got to beat teams consistently to be talked about as one of the best teams."

Seattle looked like a runaway winner early, using 58 percent shooting from the floor to build a 19-point lead at the half.

"I think we came out more ready than they thought we would be," said Rashard Lewis, who scored 16 points for the Sonics. "We jumped on them early and everybody was making shots."

Seattle's defensive strategy of crowding Duncan inside and forcing the ball to the perimeter also worked in the first half.

San Antonio shot 38.5 percent before the break.

"It was really bad out there tonight for us," the Spurs' Manu Ginobili said. "The first half was awful."

But the Spurs came out running after the break, and eventual



Seattle SuperSonics forward Rashard Lewis (7) maneuvers past San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker, right and forward Tim Duncan (21) during the second half in San Antonio on Wednesday. The Sonics won 102-96.

ly whittled Seattle's lead to 83-81 on a reverse layup by Malik Rose with 6:36 remaining. Allen followed with a three-pointer and Danny Fortson made two free

throws and a layup to make it 90-81.

After Rose made a jumper, Allen answered with a three-pointer off the backboard to

put Seattle up 93-83.

Antonio Daniels and Fortson each had 14 points for the Sonics.

SEE SONICS ON PAGE 26



Sooners' White could become second two-time Heisman winner

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Soccer pioneer Hamm retires after 17 years with U.S. team

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Lieber agrees to three-year, \$21M deal with Phillies

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